

**Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey
Reconnaissance Survey Final Report
of**

SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Prepared for

Nebraska State Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Office

Submitted by

U.S. WEST RESEARCH, INC.

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Acknowledgements

U.S. WEST RESEARCH, INC. RECOGNITION

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I

Introduction

Throughout most of Nebraska's history, historic preservation was the province of dedicated individuals and organizations working alone in their local communities. Since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, however, the Governor of each state has been required to appoint a State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to oversee preservation efforts mandated by the 1966 Act. In Nebraska, the Director of the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) serves as SHPO. The staff of the NSHS' Historic Preservation Division forms the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO).

The NeSHPO administers a wide range of preservation programs. The duties of the NeSHPO relating to programs called for by the National Historic Preservation Act include:

- Conducting and maintaining a statewide historic building survey;
- Administering the National Register of Historic Places program;
- Assisting local governments in the development of local historic preservation programs and certification of qualifying governments;
- Administering a federal tax incentives program for the preservation of historic buildings;
- Assisting Federal agencies in their responsibility to identify and protect historic properties that may be affected by their projects and;
- Providing preservation education, training and technical assistance to individuals and groups as well as local, state and federal government agencies.

What follows is a brief description of NeSHPO programs. Though described separately, it is important to remember that the programs often act in concert, and should be considered elements of the NeSHPO mission; as well as a part of the mission of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

NEBRASKA HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

The Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (or NeHBS) was begun in 1974. The survey is conducted on a county-by-county basis, and currently includes over 60,000 properties that reflect the rich architectural and historic heritage of Nebraska. The survey is conducted by researchers who drive every rural and urban public road in a county and record each property that meet certain historic requirements. Surveyors never enter private property without permission. In addition to this fieldwork,

surveyors research the history of the area in order to better understand their subject. The NeHBS often includes thematic subjects that may be unique to a certain county, such as an historic highway or type of industry.

The purpose of the NeHBS is to help local preservation advocates, land-use planners, economic development coordinators and tourism promoters understand the wealth of historic properties in their community. Properties included in the survey have no use-restrictions placed on them, nor does the survey require any level of maintenance or accessibility by property owners. Rather, the survey provides a foundation for identifying properties that may be worthy of preservation, promotion, recognition and protection within a community.

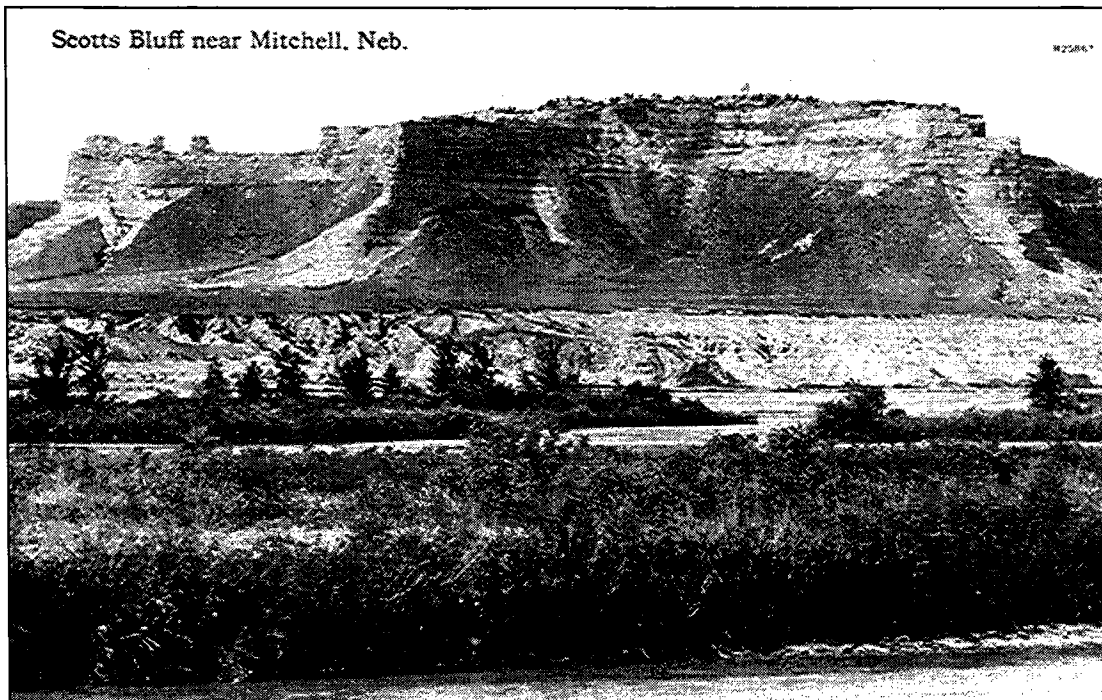
This publication is the final report for the NeHBS investigation of Scotts Bluff County. It provides a basis for preservation and planning in Scotts Bluff County at all levels of government and for individual groups or citizens. Generally, this report includes properties that convey a sense of **architectural** significance. When possible and known, the report also describes properties that have **historical** significance. Although every effort has been made to be accurate, mistakes and omissions may occasionally occur. Additionally, as this project is in part federally funded, the NeSHPO must use federal guidelines when evaluating and identifying historic properties. In short, this publication is not an end in itself, but a beginning for public planners and individuals who value their community's history.

For more information call the NeHBS Program Associate at 402/471-4788 or the NeHBS Coordinator at 402/471-4773.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

One of the tasks of the NeHBS is to help identify properties that may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is our Nation's official list of significant historic properties. Created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register includes buildings, structures, districts, objects, and sites that are significant in our history or prehistory. These properties may reflect a historically significant pattern, event, person, architectural style or archeological site. National Register sites may be significant at the local, state, or national level.

Properties need not be as "historic" as Mt. Vernon or architecturally spectacular as the Nebraska State Capitol to be listed on the National Register. Historic properties that retain their physical integrity and convey important local significance may also be listed.



Scotts Bluff Monument, circa 1913 (NPVM)

Scotts Bluff National Monument was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in October 1966.

It is important to note what listing a property on the National Register means or, perhaps more importantly, what it does not mean. The National Register **DOES NOT**:

- Restrict a private property owner's ability to alter, manage, or dispose of a property;
- Require that properties be maintained, repaired or restored;
- Invoke special zoning or local landmark designation;
- Allow the listing of individual private property over an owner's objection; or historic districts over a majority of property owner's objection;
- Require public access to private property.

Listing a property on the National Register **DOES**:

- Provide prestigious recognition to significant properties;
- Encourage the preservation of historic properties;
- Provide information about historic properties for local and statewide planning purposes;
- Help promote community development, tourism, and economic development;

- Require owner consent to list private property;
- Provide basic eligibility for financial incentives, if available.

For more information call the National Register Coordinator at 402/471-4788.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The primary goal of the NeSHPO is to translate the federal preservation program, as embodied by the National Historic Preservation Act, to the local level. One of the most effective and important tools for this purpose is the Certified Local Government, or CLG, program. A CLG is a local government, either a county or municipality, that has adopted preservation as a priority. To become a CLG, a local government must:

- Establish a preservation ordinance that includes protection for historic properties at a level the community decides is appropriate;
- Create a commission to oversee the preservation ordinance and the CLG program;
- Promote preservation education and outreach;
- Conduct and maintain some level of historic building survey;
- Establish a mechanism to locally landmark properties.

There are a number of advantages to achieving CLG status:

- A CLG is eligible to receive matching funds from the NeSHPO that are unavailable to non-CLGs;
- Contributing buildings within locally landmarked historic districts may be eligible for preservation tax incentives (see below) without being listed on the National Register of Historic Places;
- CLGs have an additional tool when considering planning, zoning, and land use issues through their landmarking and survey programs.
- CLGs have the ability to monitor and preserve structures that reflect the community's heritage;
- Finally, but not least, a CLG, through its ordinance and commission, has a built-in mechanism to promote pride in and understanding of a community's history.

Certification of a local government for CLG status comes from the NeSHPO and the National Park Service. A community considering CLG status, however, has broad flexibility within the parameters discussed above. The emphasis of the CLG program is local management of historic properties with technical and economic assistance from the NeSHPO.

For more information call the CLG coordinator at 402/471-4767.

PRESERVATION TAX INCENTIVES

Since 1976 the Internal Revenue Code has contained provisions offering tax credits for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties. Historic properties are defined as those listed on the National Register of Historic Places; or as buildings that contribute to the significance of a National Register or locally land-marked (by a CLG, see above) historic district. An income producing property may be a rental residential, office, commercial or industrial property.

A certified rehabilitation is, generally, one that conforms to the "Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings". The Standards are a common sense approach to the adaptive re-use of historic buildings. It is important to remember that this program promotes the rehabilitation of historic properties so that they may be used to the benefit and enjoyment of a community into the 21st century. The program is not necessarily intended to reconstruct or restore historic buildings to exact, as-built specifications.

The tax incentive program in Nebraska has been responsible for:

- The re-investment of millions of dollars towards the preservation of historic buildings;
- The establishment of thousands of low and moderate income housing units as well as upper-end units;
- The adaptive re-use of previously under-utilized or un-utilized historic properties in older downtown commercial areas;
- Helping broaden the tax base;
- Giving real estate developers and city planners a tool to consider projects in older, historic neighborhoods.

Certification of the historic nature of the income-producing property (usually listing the property on the National Register) and certification of the historic rehabilitation are made by both the NeSHPO and the National Park Service. We strongly urge contacting the NeSHPO and a professional tax advisor, legal counsel or appropriate local IRS office **before** initiating **any** activity for a project that anticipates the use of preservation tax incentives.

For more information call the Review and Preservation Services Program Associate at 402/471-4740.

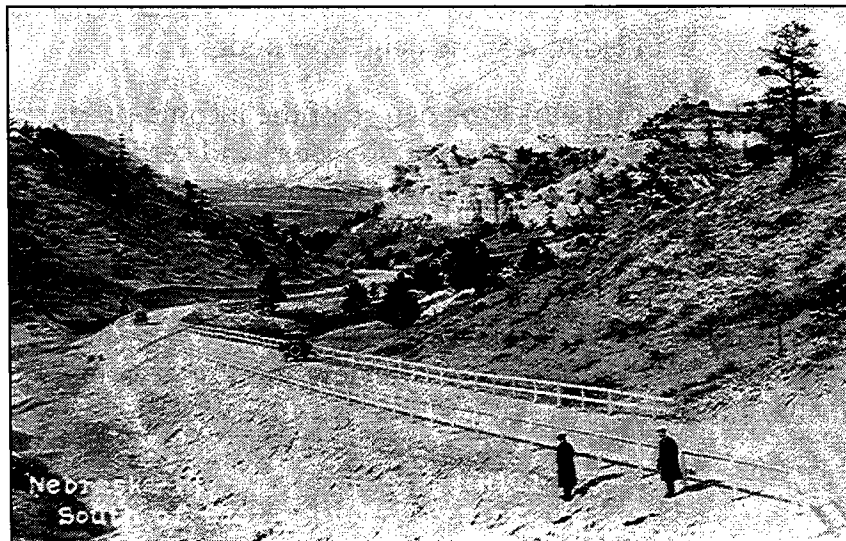
FEDERAL PROJECT REVIEW

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies take into account the effect of their undertakings on historic properties; seek ways to avoid or reduce adverse effects their projects may have on historic properties; and afford the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on the project and its effects on historic properties. The regulations that govern the "Section 106" process, as it is known, also require that the federal agency consult with the NeSHPO to: identify historic properties in the project area; assess the effects a project may have; and to seek ways to avoid or reduce adverse effects to historic properties.

For example, if the Federal Highways Administration, through the Nebraska Department of Roads, contemplates construction of a new highway, they must contact the NeSHPO for assistance in determining whether any sites or structures listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register exist in the project area. Notice that a property need not actually be listed on the Register, only be eligible. This process is to take place early enough in the planning process to allow for alternatives should historic properties be located in the project area: i.e.-in the example above, the modification of a new highway's right-of-way could avoid an archeological site or historic barn.

It is important to note that public participation in this process is vital. The Section 106 process requires the federal agency seek the views of the public and interested parties if adverse effects to historic properties are discovered through consultation

**Nebraska Highway
over Stage Hill,
south of Scottsbluff
and Gering, near
Wildcat Hills
(NPVM)**

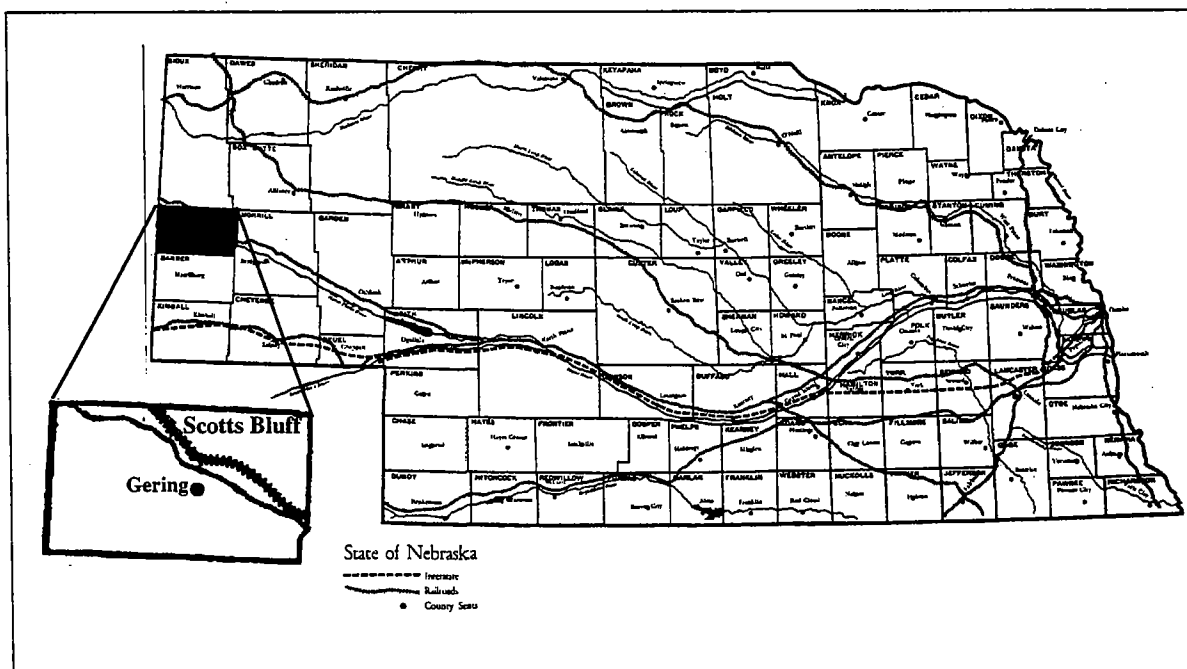


with the NeSHPO. The NeSHPO examines information provided by the federal agency, the NeHBS, and the National Register, but often the most valuable information comes from comments provided by the public. Section 106 was included in the National Historic Preservation Act to protect locally significant historic properties from unwitting federal action: it is truly a law that gives the public a voice in an often unsympathetic bureaucratic system.

For more information about Section 106 review, call the NeSHPO at 402/471-4787.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The primary function of the NeSHPO is to assist communities in preserving significant buildings, sites, objects, and structures that convey a sense of community history. The most powerful tool available to the NeSHPO in this regard is public education. For this reason, NeSHPO staff spends considerable time conducting public meetings and workshops and disseminating information to the public. The NeSHPO also works with teachers to help design and implement classroom strategies that teach students the value of their local history and heritage.



State of Nebraska with Scotts Bluff County Highlighted

Our goal is to assist local individuals, groups and governments understand, promote and preserve historic properties. The NeSHPO advocates not only the self-evident aesthetic advantages of historic preservation, but also the potential for preservation to help promote economic development, community planning, tourism, environmental sensitivity, and land-use planning.

The short descriptions included in this introduction to the Hall County final report are meant to orient the reader to the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey program within the larger mission of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office. As all NeSHPO programs spring from a common source, the National Historic Preservation Act, they work best when they work together, either in whole or in part. For the programs to work at all, they require the interest and participation of the people they are meant to serve.

For more information about the NeSHPO or the programs described above, please call 402/471-4787.

METHODOLOGY AND HISTORIC INTEGRITY

The Nebraska Historic Building Survey (NeHBS) of Scotts Bluff County was conducted between September 1994 and July 1995. Research design, field survey, historic research, and final product production were conducted by Principal Investigator Barbara M. Kooiman, and Elizabeth A. Butterfield and Christina Slattery, Architectural Historians/Historians, in association with the Nebraska State Historical Society.

U.S. West Research, Inc. (USWR) commenced the contract entitled, *Reconnaissance Survey and Thematic Survey of Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska* by conducting prefield research at the Nebraska State Historical Society. The research team gathered historical information regarding Scotts Bluff County, specific communities in the county, and two areas of thematic study related to the sugar beet industry and the Resettlement Administration Subsistence Farmstead. Furthermore, USWR devised a reconnaissance survey field form and a working bibliography. Both documents were submitted to staff members of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office for review and acceptance.

Between September and October of 1994, USWR surveyed every public road in Scotts Bluff County (100% coverage). Before the onset of the field work, the survey team notified local officials regarding the scope of the project. The survey team refrained from trespassing on either private roads or driveways. Therefore, when properties were either too far from the road to photograph or obscured by foliage, they were not inventoried. The field crew systematically inventoried the built envi-

ronment in the project area, and recorded those properties that represented important historical and architectural developments of the county.

In relation to the general architectural survey, USWR also conducted a more intensive survey of the selected theme areas entitled the *Sugar Beet Industry, and the Resettlement Administration Subsistence Farmstead*, previously identified by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office. Regarding properties associated with these thematic studies, USWR and the NeSHPO requested information at several public meetings, made many telephone calls, and placed an announcement in the local paper.¹ USWR primarily surveyed buildings and structures associated with the thematic areas that were clearly identified by either local citizens or institutions.

USWR surveyed all properties constructed at least fifty years ago (pre-1945). USWR collaborated with the NeSHPO staff to set criteria in relation to historic integrity. First, properties were surveyed if they retained original materials, location, and form. Properties were not surveyed if they displayed modern siding (i.e. stucco, permastone, aluminum, vinyl, asbestos, asphalt), blocked-in and/or downsized windows and doors, modern additions, closed-in porches, or metal porch railings. Second, for abandoned buildings, USWR only inventoried properties which appeared to have been constructed before 1900. Abandoned buildings were judged based upon integrity of location, foundation, window sashes, wall material, and roof pitch. Third, USWR surveyed only the main features of the canal system. Fourth, if the primary building of a property—for example a house or barn on a farmstead—was not historic, USWR only surveyed the outbuildings if they retained exceptional integrity and displayed unusual features, pristine form, original materials, or was the subject of a selected theme study.

Each property was photographed (35mm, black and white) at least twice at 45-degree angles to show the facade and two other elevations from the right-of-way. Each surveyed property was plotted on the appropriate corresponding survey map. On each field form, the surveyors identified the location, property type, materials, style, and massing (i.e., shape, size, height, roof type). USWR also confirmed previously surveyed buildings and rephotographed them if they were altered, and entered any new information on the field survey cards and in the NeHBS database. In addition to the required reconnaissance survey standards, the thematic survey also included completing the appropriate NeHBS form, noting significant details of each property surveyed, shooting 35mm color slides, and sketch site plans. USWR used the historic context and property types, developed by the NeSHPO, to classify each inventoried property.

1. In the fall of 1994, U.S. West Research attended one public meeting directly related to the survey project and an annual meeting of the North Platte Valley Historical Association, Inc. to inform local citizens of the scope of the work, and also gather first-hand information regarding specific sites and themes.

The research team conducted historical background research in a number of ways, and used a variety of repositories. During the project's field survey phase, USWR staff collected secondary sources, historic photographs, as well as newspaper clippings, primary sources, and brochures from vertical files located at the North Platte Valley Museum, Gering, Nebraska. Researchers also gathered secondary sources from the Scottsbluff Public Library and the Gering Public Library. USWR staff conducted extensive research at the Nebraska State Historical Society Archives and the University of Nebraska facilities, including the C.Y. Thompson Library and Love Library. In an attempt to gather primary sources, USWR staff contacted people knowledgeable about the general and specific history of the county. Further, the staff developed a questionnaire regarding ethnic groups associated with the sugar beet industry which was distributed to representatives in the ethnic communities.

USWR compiled all of the fieldwork information, as well as the historical material and entered the appropriate facts into the NeHBS database. This database was used to prepare tables and statistical data for this final survey report. The report includes information about federal and state procedures regarding historic properties; historical backgrounds of the state of Nebraska, Scotts Bluff County, and communities in the county; historic contexts identified in the county; thematic surveys of the sugar beet industry and the Resettlement Administration Subsistence Farmstead activities in the county; recommendations; references; and an architectural glossary. Additional products submitted to the Nebraska State Historical Society include photographic negatives, maps, site plans, and research files.

SURVEY RESULTS

The NeHBS of Scotts Bluff County which began in September 1994 and finished in July 1995, resulted in a comprehensive survey of 1,358 properties including resurvey of 662 properties previously inventoried. A total of 326 properties were recorded in the rural area; 178 in Gering; 12 in Henry; 58 in Lyman; 19 in McGrew; 16 in Melbeta; 78 in Minatare; 150 in Mitchell; 56 in Morrill; and 467 in Scottsbluff. In regards to the thematic survey, 73 properties associated with the sugar beet industry and 22 properties related to the Resettlement Administration Rehabilitation Farmstead Program were identified. Of the 1,358 total properties surveyed in the county, 10 are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and another combined total of 51 individual properties and districts were identified by USWR as eligible for Register.

NUMERICAL SUMMARY OF SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Site#/Name Community	Total Properties	Contributing Buildings	Contributing Sites	Contributing Structures	Contributing Objects
SF00- Rural	274 (52)	825 (60)	10 (8)	36 (21)	2 (0)
SF01- Gering	60 (118)	95 (82)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (14)
SF03- Henry	7 (5)	12 (5)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)
SF04- Lyman	42 (16)	61 (9)	0 (10)	1 (0)	0 (0)
SF05- McGrew	0 (19)	0 (15)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
SF06- Melbeta	2 (14)	1 (5)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)
SF08- Minatare	44 (34)	54 (27)	0 (0)	5 (0)	0 (0)
SF09- Mitchell	50 (100)	78 (75)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)
SF10- Morrill	27 (29)	42 (23)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)
SF11- Scottsbluff	190 (275)	263 (216)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)

SUMMARY TABLE

	Total Properties	Contributing Buildings	Contributing Sites	Contributing Structures	Contributing Objects
Total of 1994/1995 Survey	696	1431	11	50	3
Total of Previous Survey	662	517	8	23	15
Total Surveyed	1358	1948	19	73	18

Numbers in parentheses indicate properties previously surveyed as contributing.

DEFINITIONS:²

Property – Building(s), site(s), structure(s), and/or object(s) located within a defined boundary of land. All surveyed properties were at least fifty years old and architecturally intact.

Building – A building, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar construction, is created principally to shelter any form of human activity.

Site – A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic cultural, or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.

Structure – The term 'structure' is used to distinguish from buildings those functional constructions made usually for purposes other than creating human shelter.

Object – The term "object" is used to distinguish from buildings and structures those constructions that are primarily artistic in nature or are relatively small in scale and simply construct.

Contributing – A "contributing" property in the NeHBS survey retains sufficient integrity of materials, workmanship, design, setting, location, feeling and association, though may not necessarily be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

2. The following definitions have been taken verbatim from the National Register Branch, Interagency Resources Division, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1991).

II

Historic Overview of Scotts Bluff County

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Scotts Bluff County, located in the panhandle of Nebraska, encompasses 745 square miles. This rectangular-shaped county is bordered by the state of Wyoming to the west, Sioux County, Nebraska to the north, Morrill County, Nebraska to the east, and Banner County, Nebraska to the south. The North Platte River cuts from northwest to southeast through the plains of Scotts Bluff County. The river, lined with cottonwood trees, is abutted by lush rolling agricultural lands to the north and rocky land formations to the south. After leaving Scotts Bluff County, the North Platte River joins the South Platte River at a confluence point near the city of North Platte and continues to flow eastward until it joins the Missouri River. Much of the countryside in Scotts Bluff County employs irrigation ditches. Two reservoirs, Lake Alice and Lake Minatare, lie in the northeastern section of the county and provide a surplus of irrigation water.

The landscape of the west was submerged in water approximately one million years ago, and formed when a large inland sea subsided. In Scotts Bluff County, fierce weather conditions left an indelible mark on the landscape.³ Prominent sandstone and rock formations in the county include Scotts Bluff National Monument, Signal Butte, Castle Rock, Table Rock, Steamboat Rock, Coyote Rock, and Roundtop. Soil types present in the county are Alluvial in the North Platte Valley and Rosebud-Bridgeport in the remaining regions.⁴

The county is bisected by the North Platte Valley and lined to the south by a group of low mountains called the Wildcat Range. The range, which stretches approximately forty-five miles, runs roughly from Bridgeport to the Wyoming border. Its width measures, on average, from two to six miles. Scottsbluff Mountain (4,662 feet above sea level) and Wildcat Mountain (5,038 feet above sea level) are located in this range. To the south of Melbeta is a pass through the ridge known as Wright's Gap.⁵

3. Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 1.

4. James C. Olson, *History of Nebraska* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), 9.

5. Grant L. Shumway, ed., *History of Western Nebraska and Its People* (Lincoln, NE: The Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1921), 502.

The climate in Scotts Bluff County fluctuates from hot, dry summers to blustery winters. While the average high temperature in July is approximately 90 degrees, the average high temperature in January is approximately 37 degrees, a difference of 53 degrees. On a yearly basis, an average of 18 inches of precipitation is reported in Scotts Bluff County with the greatest amount falling in May and June.⁶

NATIVE AMERICAN INHABITANTS

Before Euro-American settlement of the state of Nebraska, a variety of Native American tribes occupied the region. While the Omaha, Otoe, Missouri, and Poncas tribes resided in permanent communities in the wooded areas of eastern and north-eastern Nebraska, the Pawnee occupied land that extended from the Niobrara River south through the Sand Hills to the Republican River near the Kansas border. Western Nebraska was traversed by Dakota living north of the Platte River and Arapaho and Cheyenne roaming the southwest corner of the state and panhandle.⁷

Scotts Bluff County was transmigrated by Dakota, Arapaho, and Cheyenne tribes. In the 1860s, the Cheyenne and the Arapaho waived their land rights and moved west out of Nebraska. Throughout the next several decades, treaties with the United States government forced the Dakota onto reservations and halted their hunting rights in Nebraska. The government's efforts to permanently confine the Native Americans to reservations closely preceded the 1888 designation of Scotts Bluff as a county.⁸

BRIEF HISTORY OF NEBRASKA

Foreign expeditions into the area probably occurred as early as 1541 when Francisco Vasquez de Coronado and his party travelled as far north as the present-day state line between Nebraska and Kansas. Approximately two hundred years later, in 1739, the Nebraska countryside was explored by Pierre and Paul Mallett and their six person French team. In 1803, the region fell under the ownership of the

6. *The World Book Encyclopedia* (Chicago, Il. : World Book, Inc., A Scott Fetzer Company, 1989), 106-107.

7. James A. Beattie, ed., *School History of Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1920), 18-20.

8. Addison E. Sheldon, *Nebraska: The Land and the People* (New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1931), 93, 131-137; James A. Beattie, ed., *School History of Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1920), 18-19, 23-24; Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 78.

United States government following the Louisiana Purchase.⁹ After the transaction, an American expedition headed by William Clark and Meriwether Lewis received authority to explore and promote trade in this newly acquired region. By the summer of 1804, Lewis and Clark entered the present-day boundaries of Nebraska. During the first decades of the 1800s, Nebraska was traversed by explorers and traders searching for both viable routes westward and lucrative trade relationships.¹⁰

The Oregon Trail, which passed through Nebraska and followed the Platte River, served as one of the most widely used means of transportation westward in the country. The years 1832 to 1860 mark the highest use of the route, which accommodated people travelling from East to West. The short-lived Pony Express also passed through Nebraska along this corridor. Prominent landmarks along the trail in the Nebraska Territory included Court House Rock, Chimney Rock, and Scotts Bluff. In the fall of 1860, the first telegraph line in the region was erected between St. Joseph, Missouri and Fort Kearny, Nebraska which improved communication and contributed to the discontinuation of the Pony Express service.¹¹

In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill designated the Nebraska Territory and promoted its settlement. Initial settlement occurred in the eastern part of the state along the banks of the Missouri River. Early communities included Fort Lisa (Fort Calhoun) formed in 1812; Bellevue created in 1820; and Fort Kearny established in 1847. By 1854, when Omaha City was plotted, approximately eight counties existed in Nebraska Territory. Thirteen years later, in 1867, Nebraska entered the Union as the 37 state.¹²

After the Civil War, a large influx of homesteaders entered Nebraska. Between 1860 and 1870 the population rose from 28,841 to 122,993. The increased settlement resulted from the enactment of the 1862 Homestead Act. Passage of the Homestead Act resulted in heightened efforts by government and the railroads to entice new residents to particular areas. The railroads also expanded service in the areas, which led

9. The Louisiana Purchase included the states of Louisiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, South Dakota, and North Dakota, as well as portions of Minnesota, Colorado, and Wyoming.

10. James A. Beattie, ed., *School History of Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1920), 30-54, 100-102.

11. James A. Beattie, ed., *School History of Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1920), 56-64, 71, 75-76.

12. James A. Beattie, ed., *School History of Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1920), 109-113, 166; James C. Olson, *History of Nebraska* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), 155.

to the platting of new communities along the tracks. Subsequent population increases during the early decades of settlement occurred in 1880 and 1890: 452,402 and 1,058,910 respectively.¹³

Settlement in the state moved from east to west and mirrored the expansion of the railroad. In 1875, organized counties stretched from the eastern one-quarter to the southern one-quarter of the state, and into the southern one-half of the panhandle. Just ten years later, the entire state of Nebraska was divided into counties. During these years, the economic livelihood of the state was based upon agriculture, which depended upon weather, crop prices, and the availability of markets and transportation.¹⁴

At the turn of the century, even with the shift of the state's population from rural to villages, towns and cities, Nebraska still relied heavily on agricultural production. Approximately 67% of urban manufacturing companies produced goods related to agriculture. Hybridization of primary crops, along with the introduction of alfalfa and expanded planting of sugar beets in the state upgraded farming in Nebraska. The size and the value of farms rose from 113,608 farms, worth \$511,799,810.00 in 1890 to 129,678 farms, worth \$2,079,818,647.00 in 1910. During this time, the 1904 Kinkaid Act enlarged the size of homesteads in thirty-seven northwest Nebraska counties. It intended to offer sufficient sized homesteads for agriculture and livestock production. Population statistics for the first two decades of the twentieth century indicate that settlement and crop output in this region increased significantly.¹⁵

High demand and prices for food during World War I resulted in prosperous times for Nebraska. However, this situation did not last long and in the 1920s the state experienced signs of the coming depression. Farmers who had taken mortgages out to purchase additional land during peak crop prices found foreign demand decreasing, and as a result had difficulty paying off their loans. Declining farm income had a ripple effect on the commercial and manufacturing areas in the state. Solutions for this problem arose in the mid to late 1930s and early 1940s. New Deal programs designed by Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration provided federal funds to rural and urban sectors of Nebraska. Also, in 1941, the United States entered World War II

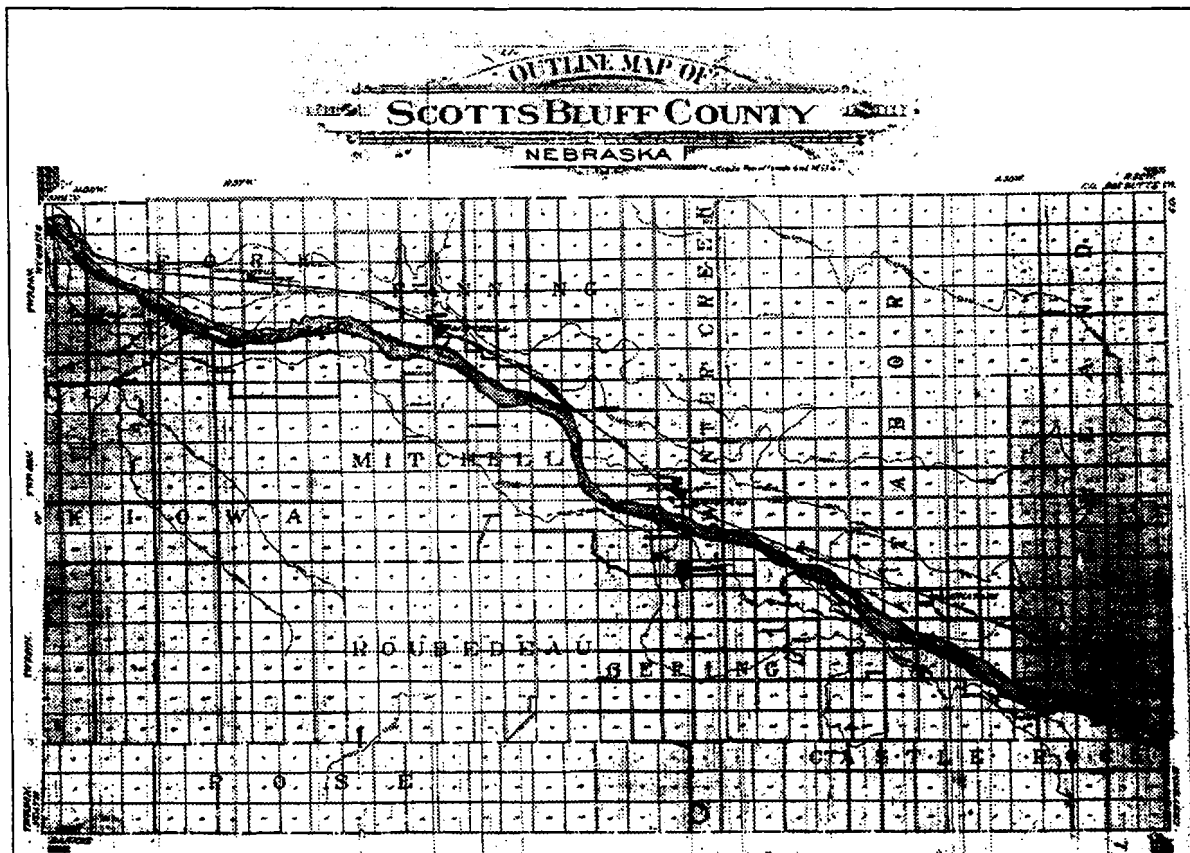
13. James C. Olson, *History of Nebraska* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), 154-157, 173.

14. James C. Olson, *History of Nebraska* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), 155-156, 174-175.

15. James C. Olson, *History of Nebraska* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), 249-252, 257-259.

and Nebraska's agricultural production answered the call to feed troops abroad and civilians at home.¹⁶

Following World War II, economic conditions throughout the state improved with higher wages and business diversification. Between 1940 and 1960, while the farm population decreased 38% urban population rose 50%. As a result of improved mechanization, farmers were able to cultivate more acres with less labor. Thus, the number of farms in the state declined as the acreage of each farm grew. In 1935, 133,616 farms averaged 348.9 acres, whereas in 1965 82,000 farms averaged 587 acres. Changing conditions in the state promoted a stable financial base.¹⁷



Map of Scotts Bluff County, 1907 (NSHS)

16. James C. Olson, *History of Nebraska* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), 268-270, 286-288, 296-306.

17. James C. Olson, *History of Nebraska* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), 330-332.

SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY HISTORY

The region known today as Scotts Bluff County was acquired in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. It was not until 1812 that the first Euro-American party, headed by Robert Stuart, passed Scotts Bluff and continued through the North Platte Valley. They travelled from a trading post at the estuary of the Columbia River to St. Louis, Missouri. Scotts Bluff, a well-known geographical monument in the valley, bears the name of Hiram Scott, a fur trader who died near the site. The entire county now possesses the name of the land formation.¹⁸

Scotts Bluff County served a primary role in the westward expansion of America. In the mid-1800s, Robidoux Pass (SF00-036) and Mitchell Pass, both located in present-day Scotts Bluff County, provided corridors through the area for settlers, military personnel, and even communications transporters such as mail carriers and telegraph posts. In 1848, an estimated 40,000 people migrated west through present-day Scotts Bluff County, and during the next year that figure rose by 15,000 people. In 1851, in response to Native American agitation regarding the high number of Euro-American travellers on the Oregon Trail, the Fort Laramie Treaty Council assembled in today's Scotts Bluff County, near Lyman at Horse Creek. The event formed one of the largest documented congregations of Plains Native Americans in one location. In 1864, the army established a new post, Fort Mitchell, along the North Platte River, near Mitchell, Nebraska, to ensure the stability of the countryside.¹⁹

Nebraska was designated by Congress as a territory in 1854 and thirteen years later it entered the Union as a state. After admittance into the Union, present-day Scotts Bluff County was a portion of Cheyenne County which encompassed the southern tier of the panhandle. During this time, as a result of the transcontinental railroad, the Oregon-California Trail lost its role as one of the main passageways to the Pacific Ocean. By 1870, ranchers utilized the resources of the North Platte Valley and two years later an estimated 60,000 cattle roamed land in the southwestern quarter of present-day Scotts Bluff County. The cattle industry prospered in the valley until two

18. Merrill J. Mattes, *The Great Platte River Road: The Covered Wagon Mainline Via Fort Kearny to Fort Laramie* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1969), 426-427; James A. Beattie, ed., *School History of Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1920), 101; Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 2.

19. Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 3-4; Merrill J. Mattes, *The Great Platte River Road: The Covered Wagon Mainline Via Fort Kearny to Fort Laramie* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1969), 16-17, 20, 455.

events occurred in the mid-1880s. First, in 1885-1886, a terrible winter hit the area. Second, homesteaders began streaming into western Nebraska.²⁰

Between 1886 and 1887, homesteaders began claiming land in present-day Scotts Bluff County. Since the Cheyenne County seat of Sidney was approximately 75 miles from their claims, homesteaders requested designation of a separate county. In 1888, Cheyenne County was divided into seven counties including Deuel, Garden, Morrill, Cheyenne, Kimball, Banner, and Scotts Bluff. Both Mitchell and Gering competed to be the county seat. After an election on February 12, 1889 Gering received three hundred more votes and won the title.²¹

The formation of religious and academic institutions closely followed the designation of the county. The Baptists and Methodists organized the earliest congregations in Scotts Bluff County, erecting churches in 1889. One year later, the Christian Church also organized in the county. Shortly thereafter, the valley was peppered with a variety of religious groups. On October 3, 1889, the Scotts Bluff County Superintendent organized the first school district in an area known as the Kiowa precinct, located southwest of Morrill. In urban settings, the formation of schools paralleled the establishment of the associated communities. Most of the original schools in the county served dual purposes, housing government, social, and/or religious activities. In 1915, a transformation in the rural areas resulted from the consolidation of districts, including the Lake Alice Consolidated School (SF00-275) and the Sunflower School (SF00-173). In 1920, Scotts Bluff County reported an academic population of 7,633 students, a number approximately one-sixth higher than the previous year.²²

Settlement in Scotts Bluff County occurred along the banks of the North Platte River and the railroad tracks of both the Union Pacific and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy (hereafter referred to as the Burlington). The railroad lines prompted the formation of many of the communities located in the county. In 1885, even before the establishment of Scotts Bluff County, the Union Pacific surveyed the North Platte Valley.²³ However, in the early 1900s, the first railroad to lay tracks in the valley was

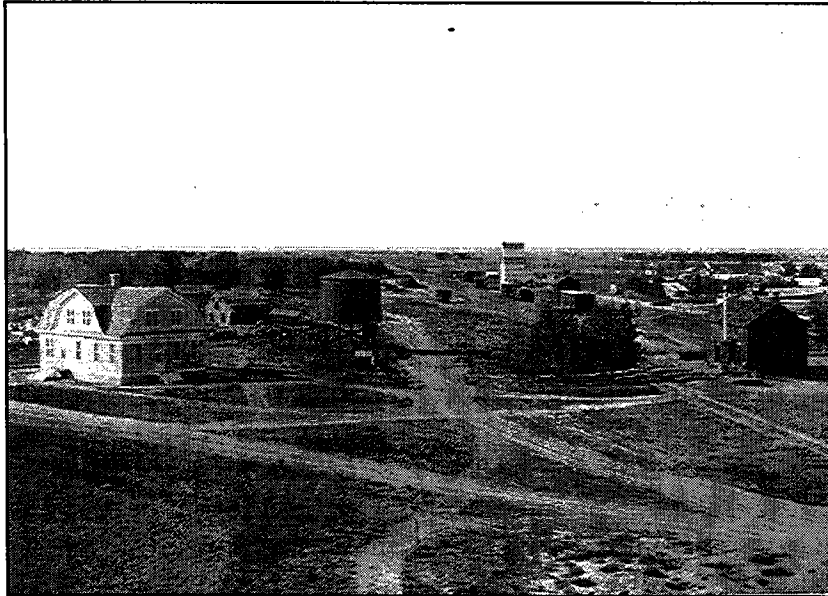
20. Merrill J. Mattes, *The Great Platte River Road: The Covered Wagon Mainline Via Fort Kearny to Fort Laramie* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1969), 17; *Scotts Bluff County Centennial Cookbook 1888-1988* (1988), 224a; Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 8; Earl Harris, *History of Scotts Bluff National Monument* (Gering, NE: Oregon Trail Museum, 1962), 9-10.

21. Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 78; *Scotts Bluff County Centennial Cookbook 1888-1988* (1988), 224a.

22. Grant L. Shumway, ed., *History of Western Nebraska and Its People* (Lincoln, NE: The Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1921), 498-499, 487-489.

23. Grant L. Shumway, ed., *History of Western Nebraska and Its People* (Lincoln, NE: The Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1921), 450.

the Burlington. It followed the north side of the North Platte River and resulted in the development of the communities of Minatare, Scottsbluff, Mitchell, Morrill, and Henry. Approximately ten years later, the Union Pacific laid its tracks along the south side of the North Platte River. The section of track from Northport, Nebraska did not reach west to Gering, the county seat, until 1911. Other communities along the path of the Union Pacific included McGrew and Lyman.²⁴



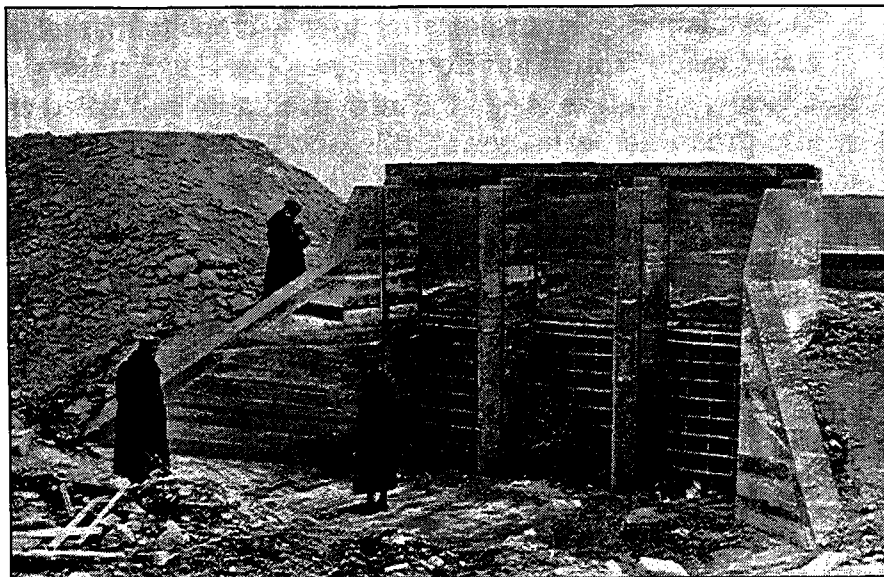
**Tri-State Land
Office, Scottsbluff,
Nebraska
(NPVM)**

The development of Scotts Bluff County reflected the increased implementation of irrigation systems. In 1887, the Farmers Canal Company formed as one of the first of its kind to service Scotts Bluff County. It constructed approximately ten miles of canal before succumbing to financial trouble. The company then passed into the hands of a group from eastern United States directed by William H. Wright. In early 1891, including the canal originally laid by the Farmers Canal Company, approximately 144 miles of canals were constructed in Scotts Bluff County. Near the turn of the century, the Farmers Canal Company again experienced economic problems and was placed under the direction of the Tri-State Land Company. Additional canal companies that operated along with the Farmers Canal Company in Scotts Bluff County, included the Minatare Canal Irrigation Company, the Winter Creek Canal Company, and the Enterprise Ditch Company.²⁵

24. Gering Centennial Committee, *History of Gering, Nebraska: The First 100 Years* (Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1989), 14, 24; Jane Graff, coord., *Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1988), 84-105.

25. Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 21-22; "Much Sweat, a Bit of Blood Went Into Irrigation Canals to Make Area Bloom," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald*, 21 March 1967.

**Concrete structure
on Government
Canal, near
Mitchell, Nebraska
(NSHS)**



Scotts Bluff County's agricultural community was significantly aided in 1902 when Congress passed the Federal Reclamation Act, which contributed financial support for the construction of reservoirs. In 1904, as a result of the new act, the Pathfinder Reservoir in Wyoming underwent construction. Lake Alice and Lake Minatare in Scotts Bluff County were also built around 1915 under the title of the North Platte River Project. Lake Minatare, the largest reservoir in the county, measures three miles in width and an 80-foot depth at the center. It has the capacity to store approximately 90,000 "acre feet" of water. The Minatare Dam (SF00-261), located at the south side of the lake, is 4,000 feet long and contains a combination of over 500,000 yards of dirt and rock. In 1927, construction related to the reservoir project ended and three years later canals in Scotts Bluff County irrigated approximately 130,000 acres of land.²⁶

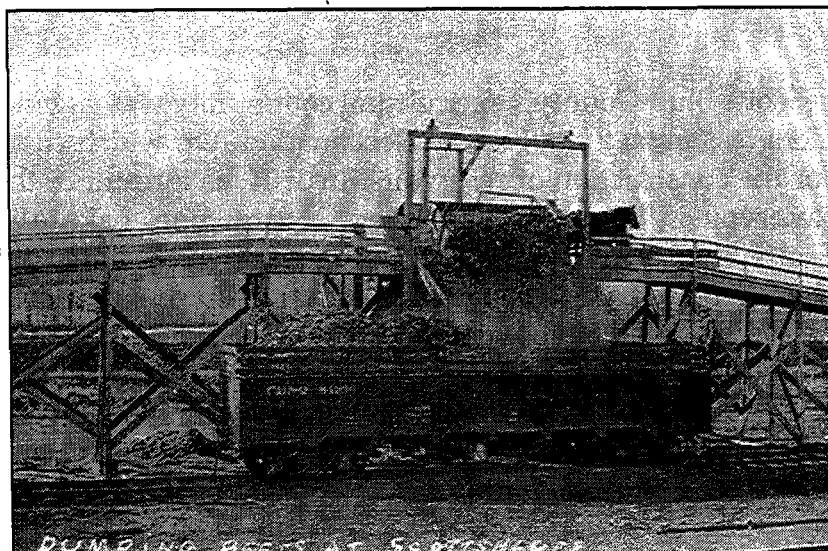


**Minatare Reservoir
with Face of Dam
(NSHS)**

26. Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 23; "Much Sweat, a Bit of Blood Went Into Irrigation Canals to Make Area Bloom," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald*, 21 March 1967; Grant L. Shumway, ed., *History of Western Nebraska and Its People* (Lincoln, NE: The Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1921), 486.

The availability of transportation to take crops to market, as well as the abundance of water, made Scotts Bluff County a successful agricultural region. Sugar beets have historically served as one of the most profitable cultivated crops, however, the county also produced beans, corn, cattle, and alfalfa. Sugar beets were initially grown in the county in the first decade of the 1900s. By 1910, the Great Western Sugar Company constructed a processing factory in Scottsbluff (SF00-003). Four other Great Western Sugar Company factories were constructed in villages located in the county including Gering (1916, SF00-025), Mitchell (1920, SF00-027), Minatare (1926, SF00-298), and Lyman (1927, SF00-284). The presence of the sugar beet industry spurred a population boom between 1910 and 1930 in Scotts Bluff County, with census figures jumping from 8,355 to 28,644. Ethnic groups who entered the county to fill the skilled and unskilled jobs affiliated with the sugar beet industry were the Germans from Russia, Japanese, and Mexicans.²⁷

**Dumping Beets at
Scottsbluff, Nebraska
(NPVM)**

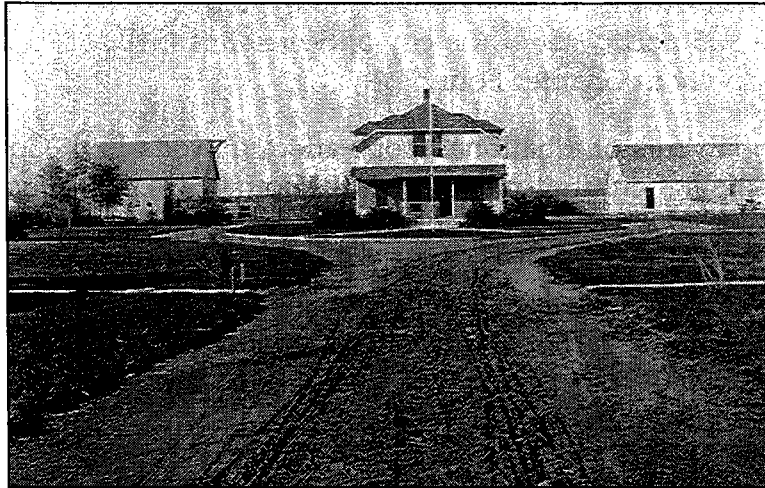


Since agriculture became the primary industry in the North Platte Valley, an experimental agricultural station was erected in Scotts Bluff County. In 1910, Fritz Knorr was appointed manager of a 160-acre plot known as the Scottsbluff Experiment Station (SF00-047). This station, created by the Reclamation Act of 1902 and intentionally located in this dry region of Nebraska, was established to analyze agricultural practices on irrigated lands. Knorr served as the first chief administrator of the site from 1910 to 1916. In 1948, the Scottsbluff Experiment Station passed from the United States Department of Agriculture to the University of Nebraska. Today, in

27. Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 41-42, 51-57; *Scotts Bluff County Centennial Cookbook 1888-1988* (1988), 35a, 224a; Clerk of Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1992-1993* (Lincoln, NE, 1993), 808.

1995, the station is still operational. Its plots were listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 11, 1992.²⁸

During the Great Depression, Scotts Bluff County significantly benefited from New Deal programs. Scotts Bluff National Monument (SF00-035), designated in 1919, underwent development between 1933 and 1934 by the Civilian Works Administration. For a short period thereafter, the Public Works Administration proceeded to aid in the construction of the monument's main road. From 1935 to 1938, the Civilian Conservation



**Scottsbluff County Experimental Farm, 1913
(NPVM)**

Corps Camp No. 762 worked on buildings, roadways, and parking lots at the monument. The Civilian Conservation Corps also had camps located at Wildcat Hills State Game Preserve (SF00-252) and four miles northwest of Mitchell (Camp No. 759), and a Veterans' Conservation Camp was located at Lake Minatare. The Wildcat Hills Camp constructed an entrance road, foot trails, foot bridges, picnic areas, a caretaker's house, shelters, and fencing. Both the Lake Minatare Camp and Camp No. 759 were under the authority of the United States Reclamation Bureau. Planting trees and working on the irrigation system occupied much of their time. The Lake Minatare Camp also constructed stone gates (SF00-193, SF00-260), fireplaces, benches and several buildings (SF00-262) near the lake. The most prominent feature at Lake Minatare, probably constructed in the 1930s by the Work Project Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps, is the stone lighthouse (SF00-038). It stands as one of the only lighthouses in the state.²⁹

28. Gering Centennial Committee, *History of Gering, Nebraska: The First 100 Years* (Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1989), 26; Rex Nielsen, "Knorr-Holden Continuous Corn Plot," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Listed 11 June 1992.

29. Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 3; Earl R. Harris, *History of Scotts Bluff National Monument* (Gering, NE: Oregon Trail Museum Association, 1962), 27, 31-32; "Approve CCC Camp at Game Preserve," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald*, 28 April 1935; "Spotted Tail Unit of CCC Arrives: Will Be Used on Reclamation," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald*, 27 June 1935; "Veterans' Camp to Be Divided," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald*, 22 May 1935.

In 1935, Scotts Bluff County also participated in a Rural Rehabilitation Program, a federal government project created to relocate displaced farm families on subsistence farmsteads. In Scotts Bluff County, a project consisting of 22 units was operating in 1935 northwest of the city of Scottsbluff (SF00-049). This program is covered extensively in Chapter Four.³⁰

Events of a national scope affected Scotts Bluff County. During both World Wars the agricultural industry in the county was influenced. World War I increased the demand for sugar and raised prices of the crop in the county from \$6.00 per ton to \$10.00 per ton. World War II created a labor shortage for farmers in Scotts Bluff County. To compensate for the loss of field workers to the war effort, a prisoner-of-war camp (not extant) was established at the Scottsbluff Municipal Airport (SF00-048). It was one of twenty such camps located in Nebraska and boasted the largest number of prisoners.³¹

Following World War II, population statistics in the county remained steady. The population of Scotts Bluff County between 1940 and 1960 decreased minimally from 33,917 to 33,809 and by 1970 the county experienced a population growth to 36,432. Twenty years later, in 1990, the population of the county remained steady and was reported at 36,025 people.³²

Scotts Bluff County, though not seriously settled until after 1886, experienced large increases in population after the turn of the century when the Burlington Railroad and Union Pacific Railroad traversed the North Platte River Valley. With these transportation developments, industries such as the Great Western Sugar Company were successfully able to move their products to market. Primarily an agricultural based economy, Scotts Bluff County has remained a leader in the state in irrigation, sugar beet production, and has boasted a stable economy and population since World War II.

30. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935) 8.

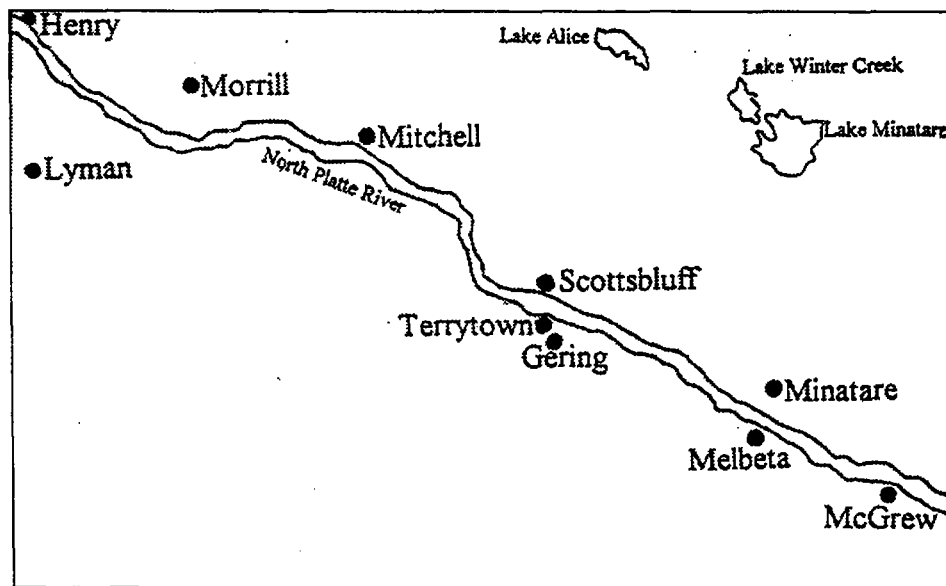
31. Hiram H. Kano, *A History of the Japanese in Nebraska* (Crawford, Nebraska: Cottonwood Press, 1984), 27-28; Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 71; "Prisoner of War Camp," File: POW Camp North Platte Valley Museum, Gering, NE.

32. Clerk of Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1992-1993* (Lincoln, NE, 1993), 808.

SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY POPULATION STATISTICS

1890	1,888	1930	28,644	1970	36,432
1900	2,552	1940	33,917	1980	38,344
1910	8,355	1950	33,939	1990	36,025
1920	20,710	1960	33,809		

SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY VILLAGES, TOWNS, AND CITIES



Scotts Bluff County, Townsite locations

GERING

Gering is located directly east of Scotts Bluff National Monument in approximately the center of the county. The North Platte River runs to the north of the city. In 1885, Oscar W. Gardner moved from Custer County, Nebraska to homestead in the North Platte Valley. Two years later, since Gardner anticipated the arrival of Union Pacific tracks, he donated a piece of his homestead for the platting of a new town. After initially planning to name the town Vendome, Gardner settled on the name of Gering after his friend Martin Gering. Gering was a stockholder in the town which bore his name. During 1887, several men from Gering, including Oscar Gardner travelled to Sidney, the Cheyenne County seat, to discuss the partitioning of the county.

In 1888, Scotts Bluff County was formed from the larger Cheyenne County. Three years later, in 1891, Gering received incorporation as a village.³³

In the early months of 1889, elections were held to choose the Scotts Bluff County seat. The prime candidates were the communities of Gering and Mitchell. To encourage voters to pick Gering, Martin Gering promised to construct a bridge across the North Platte River. Since a clear winner was not decided after the first election, a run-off was held and Gering finally secured the position of Scotts Bluff County seat. In 1920-1921, the Scotts Bluff County Courthouse (SF01-003), was built in the architectural style of Neo-Classical Revival.³⁴

The original map of Gering was filed on March 28, 1887 in Cheyenne County. The sixteen block area, located on Section 2, Township 21 North, Range 55 West, was platted in a grid pattern with the intersection of Euclid and Lincoln avenues at the center. Originally, the main business district was located on Euclid, however, with the arrival of the railroad it relocated to Lincoln Avenue by 1912. One year later, all of the streets in Gering were renamed with letters and numbers. In 1928, Gering's central business district ran along 10th Street between approximately P and M streets, displaying a majority of brick buildings with only a few frame buildings. While most of the buildings in the district stood one-story tall, several were two-stories, and the New Gering Hotel rose to three stories. Businesses located in the district included banks, drug stores, hotels, fraternal lodges, theaters, auto sales and service companies, offices, and even a cheese factory.³⁵

Though Gering was constructed contingent upon the route of the anticipated Union Pacific, the railroad did not reach the community until 1911. Managers of the Burlington Railroad, who had constructed a line on the north side of the river, anticipated that all of the people from Gering would move to Scottsbluff. To their dismay, most of Gering's citizens waited for the arrival of the Union Pacific.³⁶

33. Gering Centennial Committee, *History of Gering, Nebraska: The First 100 Years* (Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1989), 3-4, 9-10; *Scotts Bluff Centennial Cookbook 1888-1988* (1988), i.

34. Gering Centennial Committee, *History of Gering, Nebraska: The First 100 Years* (Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1989), 10, 18.

35. After the turn of the century, construction in Gering was aided by the development of a brick factory. In 1908, Severin Sorensen and two sons started a brick factory in the community. It produced brick for the construction of many buildings in the North Platte Valley. In 1910, the Sorensens relocated the factory to the northwest edge of Gering. The factory operated consistently until 1941, with the exception of several years associated with the Depression. The Severin Sorensen House (SF01-104) was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 31, 1983. Joni Gilkerson, "Severin Sorensen House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Listed 31 March 1983; Gering Centennial Committee, *History of Gering, Nebraska: The First 100 Years* (Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1989), 2, 115-116; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Ferris Fire Insurance Map of Gering, Nebraska* (1928).

36. Gering Centennial Committee, *History of Gering, Nebraska: The First 100 Years* (Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1989), 14.



**Main Street looking
South, Gering,
Nebraska, 1915.
(NPVM)**

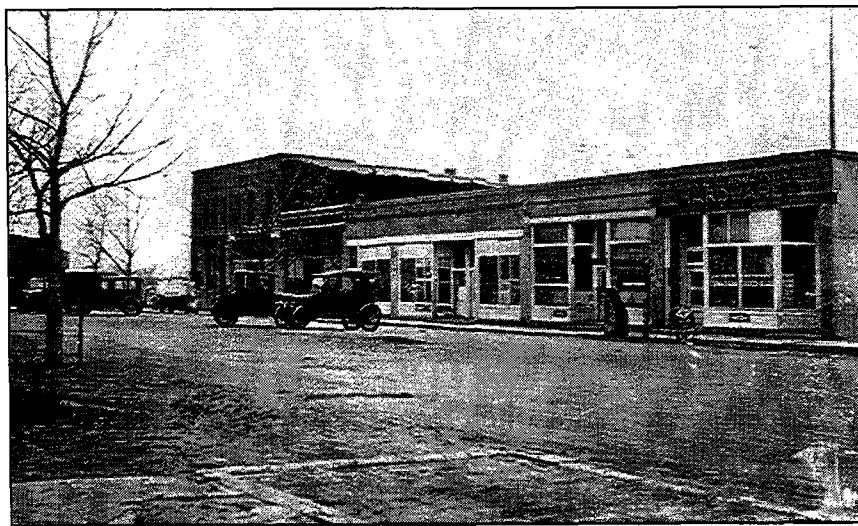
Economic progress in Gering resulted from the introduction of the railroad line. In 1916, a sugar beet factory (SF00-025) was erected in Gering under the direction of Robert G. Miller. A U-shaped, brick dormitory was also erected to house workers at the northeast corner of 8th and P streets (not extant). The success of the factory required the use of additional freight trains and labor during the sugar beet campaign. As a result of the construction of the factory and influx in population, Gering experienced substantial changes. Between 1910 and 1920, the population of Gering rose from 627 to 2,508 and construction of residential buildings increased. Between 1914 and 1916, only one house was erected in Gering, but following reports of the construction of the factory, a contractor immediately proposed the erection of fifty new homes in the community. Gering residents also formed a city governing system to accommodate new municipal demands. In the 1980s, the Gering sugar factory closed as a result of bankruptcy and later reopened as a sugar storage site. In 1990, the population of Gering was reported at 7,946.³⁷

HENRY

Henry is located in the northwest corner of the county, is sited north of the North Platte River. The Old Red Cloud Agency, which operated from 1867 to 1873, was located approximately one mile from the site of Henry. Since the railroad often plat-

37. *Scotts Bluff Centennial Cookbook 1888-1988* (1988), i; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Ferris Fire Insurance Map of Gering, Nebraska* (1928); "Great Western Company History (Gering)," (circa 1953), 2, NeSHPO, Lincoln, NE; Addison E. Sheldon, ed., *The Nebraska Blue Book and Historical Register 1920* (Lincoln, NE, 1920), 393; Nebraska Legislative Council, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1950* (Lincoln, NE, 1950), 342; Gering Centennial Committee, *History of Gering, Nebraska: The First 100 Years* (Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1989), 27; Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1992-1993* (Lincoln, NE, 1993), 893.

ted townsites at nine mile intervals in the valley, the Yorick Nichols family reached an agreement with the Lincoln Land Company regarding a new town in western Scotts Bluff County. In 1908, the Nichols agreed to donate half of the townsite land in exchange that the new community be named after their dead adopted son "Henry." One year later, in 1909, a surveyor platted Henry³⁸



Henry, Nebraska, 1928 (NPVM)

The new community of Henry grew steadily because it offered a more economical transportation center than the nearby Wyoming depots. As soon as Henry had the capacity to ship large numbers of cattle to market, the Swann Land and Cattle Company utilized its facilities. Another boost to the economic status of Henry occurred in 1916, when the North Platte Valley Cooperative Turkey Marketing began in the area. Again, Henry was used as a shipping location for a yearly market consisting of almost a quarter of a million-dollars worth of poultry. Henry's first population statistic was reported in 1920 at 129, and twenty years later it reached 176 people. The population of Henry has remained stable throughout the decades and in 1990 was reported at 145.³⁹

38. Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1988), 89; Elton Perkey, *Perkey's Nebraska Place-Names* (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1982), 174-175.

39. Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1988), 89; Addison E. Sheldon, ed., *The Nebraska Blue Book and Historical Register 1920* (Lincoln, NE, 1920), 394; Nebraska Legislative Council, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1950* (Lincoln, NE, 1950), 343; Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1992-1993* (Lincoln, NE, 1993), 893.

LYMAN

Lyman, located on the western edge of Scotts Bluff County, is approximately one-quarter of a mile from the Nebraska/Wyoming border. In comparison to all of the communities located in the county, it is furthest from the North Platte River. It sits approximately three-and-one-half miles south of the river. It is located several miles east of the site of the 1851 Horse Creek Treaty signing. Lyman developed late as a community in comparison to the rest of the county. In 1919, Mr. Charles Lyman and a few associates chose a site for the new community along the pending tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad. It stood equidistant from Gering Nebraska and Yoder, Wyoming. In 1922, the Union Pacific tracks reach Lyman and the village was incorporated. The first census of Lyman in 1930 reported a population of 656 people.⁴⁰

In the 1920s, besides the presence of the railroad, Lyman's development was also fostered by the construction of the Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation Canal and the erection of a sugar beet factory (SF00-284). Thus, the most significant growth period of Lyman dated from 1921 to 1927. The factory had one of the shortest operations in the county. It began in 1927, halted operations during World War II and closed permanently in 1949. Support facilities erected by the Great Western Sugar Company included dormitories (not extant) and homes (SF04-041 to SF04-058), as



Sugarbeet Harvest
Northeast of Lyman, Nebraska, early 1920's.
(NSHS)

well as a Union Pacific spur to nearby beet dump stations. After disassembling the factory, the pieces were used to erect a sugar beet complex and most likely dormitories, at Goodland, Kansas. In 1960 Couplamatic, Inc., a company which assembled and sold hydraulic hose parts, located in Lyman. Later that decade, a similar

40. Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1988), 90-91; *Scotts Bluff County Centennial Cookbook 1888-1988* (1988), 35a; Nebraska Legislative Council, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1940* (Lincoln, NE, December, 1940), 310.

company known as House of Hose began operating from the brick office of the abandoned Great Western Sugar factory. In 1990, the population of Lyman was reported at 452 people.⁴¹

MCGREW

McGrew is located in the southeast corner of the county, south of the North Platte River. In 1910, the townsite for McGrew, which stood enroute of tracks being laid for the Union Pacific Railroad, was purchased. C.F. McGrew, the namesake of the community, was an executive of the Livestock National Bank of Omaha, Nebraska who reneged on a prior commitment to erect a commercial block in the hub of the town. In 1911, the first Union Pacific train reached McGrew and one year later the community received incorporation as a village. Two years after incorporation, a new concrete bridge stretched across the North Platte River to accommodate residents living south of the waterway. In 1917, a beet dump, constructed adjacent to the Union Pacific tracks, provided an easier transportation system for sugar beets from the fields to nearby factories. A decade after establishment, commerce in McGrew flourished with a store, post office, bank, lumber company, saloon, restaurant, hotel, grain elevator, and creamery. In 1940, 139 people resided in McGrew, and fifty years later the census reported 99 people.⁴²

MELBETA

Melbeta is located in the southeastern part of the county, south of the North Platte River. In 1886, Ernest Zehner was the first homesteader in the area of present-day Melbeta. As early as 1889, the Castle Rock Canal serviced the area with water and a decade later the Gering Canal handled water distribution. Both operations supported the beet industry in the area, as well as other agricultural products. In 1908, as a result of railroad and irrigation activity, Dr. S.M. Bentley purchased a section of Zehner's land and three years later it was platted. The community was given the name Melbeta, a word meaning "sweet beet" derived from the German language. An early beet dump adjacent to the railroad tracks most likely fostered the name. By 1914, the village of Melbeta became incorporated and it housed a church, school, feed store, lumber yard, blacksmith shop, and mercantile store. In the 1930s, Melbeta was

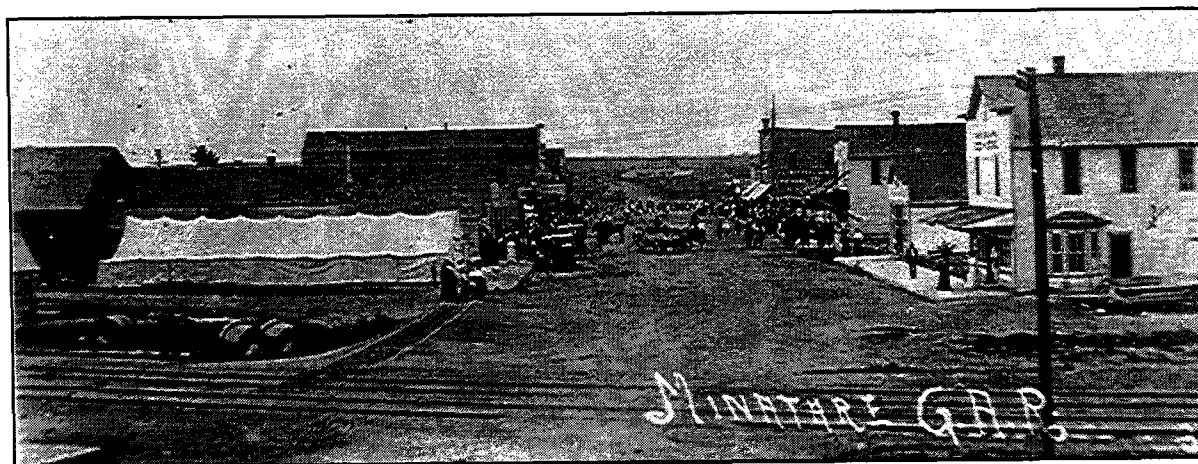
41. Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1988), 90-91; "Great Western Company History (Lyman)," (circa 1953), 2, NeSHPO, Lincoln, NE; Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1992-1993* (Lincoln, NE, 1993), 893.

42. Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1988), 92; Elton Perkey, *Perkey's Nebraska Place-Names* (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1982), 174; Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1992-1993* (Lincoln, NE, 1993), 893.

updated with sidewalks, sewers, and electric lamps. In 1940 the population of Melbeta was 145 and by 1990 it had fallen to 116 people.⁴³

MINATARE

Minatare is located in the southeastern part of the county, north of the North Platte River. The name "Minatare" received its nomenclature from the Minnataree Siouan group of Native Americans who traversed the North Platte Valley. In 1885, George Fairfield, a United States government surveyor, filed the first claim near the present site of Minatare. Fairfield, who worked at a land office in Sidney, Nebraska, often received incoming trains to persuade homesteaders to settle near his claim, known as "Tabor." In December of 1887, residents of Tabor formed the Minatare Canal & Irrigation Company to enhance the agricultural conditions of the area. In 1900, due to the route of the Burlington Railroad, Tabor was moved to the north side of the river and renamed Minatare.⁴⁴



Early Minatare, Nebraska
(NPVM)

43. Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1988), 94-95; Elton Perkey, *Perkey's Nebraska Place-Names* (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1982), 174; Nebraska Legislative Council, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1950* (Lincoln, NE, 1950), 344; Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1992-1993* (Lincoln, NE, 1993), 893.

44. Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1988), 97-98; Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 92-93.

In 1930, the center of downtown Minatare was located at the intersection of Lexington and Center Avenue. While the buildings on the west side of Center Avenue displayed brick construction, the east side of the thoroughfare had an equal number of brick and frame buildings and a large number of lots were still empty. Businesses located in the downtown district included a post office, garage, printing company, dance hall, hotel, drug store, bank, and theater.⁴⁵



**Conklin Drugs
and
Minatare Bank,
Minatare,
Nebraska, 1930's
(NPVM)**

Minatare experienced economic prosperity with the presence of the sugar beet industry. In 1926, construction of a sugar beet factory (SF00-298) by the Great Western Sugar Company on the west edge of town raised the population of Minatare. Between 1920 and 1930, the population of Minatare grew from 660 to 1,079. The Great Western Sugar Company constructed frame, bungalow and vernacular houses (SF08-001, SF08-011, SF08-034, SF08-037, SF08-038, SF08-041 to SF08-043, SF08-059 to SF08-063, SF08-066 to SF08-078) brick triplexes (SF08-002, SF08-003), and a brick dormitory (SF08-004) along Clinton Avenue to house its employees. The company housing, also built on the western edge of town, resided near the factory to guarantee that the workers could fill the round-the-clock shifts. In the 1940s, Minatare's sugar factory closed. During the next decade, the factory and its surrounding property was utilized as a feedlot and continues to serve the same capacity in 1994. In 1990, the population of Minatare was reported at 807.⁴⁶

45. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Ferris Fire Insurance Map of Minatare, Nebraska* (1930).

46. Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 92-93; Addison E. Sheldon, ed., *The Nebraska Blue Book and Historical Register 1920* (Lincoln, NE, 1920), 396; Nebraska Legislative Council, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1940* (Lincoln, NE, 1940), 310; Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1992-1993* (Lincoln, NE, 1993), 893.

MITCHELL

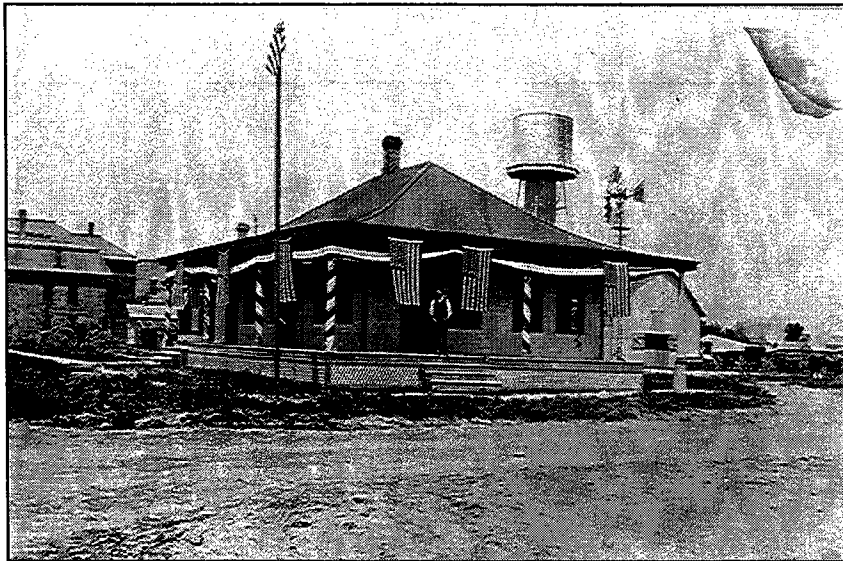
Mitchell is located in the northwestern part of the county, north of the North Platte River. In 1887, Mitchell originated as a post office/store established by James and Henry Russell. The Russells named the location of their operation "Thompson" and later changed it to "Mitchell" after Fort Mitchell, which served as a government post established in the area in 1864. Hearsay regarding the arrival of the railroad and the erection of another community in its path, prompted the Russells to request government approval to transfer their establishment north of the river. The new town of Mitchell was sited on land transferred from Cy Peyton to Wallace Merchant, and eventually to the Lincoln Land Company. In the fall of 1900, the Burlington Railroad tracks reached Mitchell and two years later it underwent incorporation.⁴⁷



Early Mitchell, Nebraska
(NPVM)

47. Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1988), 100; *Scotts Bluff County Centennial Cookbook 1888-1988* (1988), 142a.

Even though the community of Mitchell did not win in the election for county seat in 1889, it prevailed in its bid for the county fair. The first county fair, which began in 1908, consisted of farming presentations displayed near Gering. In 1913, J.L. Sanford, a banker, and other Mitchell business leaders secured the county fair following the acquisition of a site southwest of the commercial district to house the fairgrounds. In 1931, the fairgrounds displayed three cattle barns (SF09-089, SF09-094), a swine facility, a horse barn, poultry house, an agriculture building and hall, a girls and boys building, ladies art building, a dance pavilion (Sanford Hall, SF09-090), and grandstand (SF09-097) and race track. In 1994, Mitchell continues to serve as the site of the Scotts Bluff County Fair.⁴⁸



**Reclamation Office,
Mitchell, Nebraska,
1910
(NPVM)**

Before the introduction of irrigation, cattle grazed the countryside around Mitchell. However, after the turn of the century things changed with the establishment of an office for the United States Reclamation Service in Mitchell.⁴⁹ Thereafter, the agricultural conditions in the area improved so as to warrant the production of sugar beets. In response to the initiation of sugar beet cultivation, it was reported that:⁵⁰

Shortly after the first year of raising beets almost every farmer had established credit and prospered; the towns in the Valley blossomed with the best merchandise; the bank prospered as no where else in the

48. Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 86; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Ferris Fire Insurance Map of Mitchell, Nebraska* (1931).

49. Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1988), 100.

50. "Great Western Company History," Mitchell-2, circa 1953, NeSHPO, Lincoln, NE.

state. Our railroads increased their freight trains from one train running three times a week to ten to twelve fast freights per day.

In 1920, the Great Western Sugar Company erected a factory (SF00-027), and later worker houses (SF09-111 to SF09-118) and a dormitory (SF09-001) in the northwestern corner of the community. Between 1910 and 1930, as a result of the jobs created by the factory, the population of Mitchell rose from 640 to 2,058. In 1931, based upon the *Sanborn-Ferris Fire Insurance Map of Mitchell, Nebraska*, a grouping of approximately thirty small frame beet shacks (not extant) were located west of the large brick dormitory. In 1994, no buildings or structures remained standing in that area.⁵¹

In 1931, the focal point for Mitchell's downtown existed at the intersection of Elm Street and Center Avenue. Most of the buildings in the district displayed brick, frame, or frame with brick or stone veneer construction. Businesses operating in the area included a theater (SF09-053), a drug store, a garage, city hall (SF09-066), banks, printing shop, shoe repair, hotel, and offices. The Pathfinder Irrigation District facilities and a lumber yard were located to the east of the commercial district. In 1990, Mitchell's commercial district continued support and serve a population of 1,743.⁵²

MORRILL

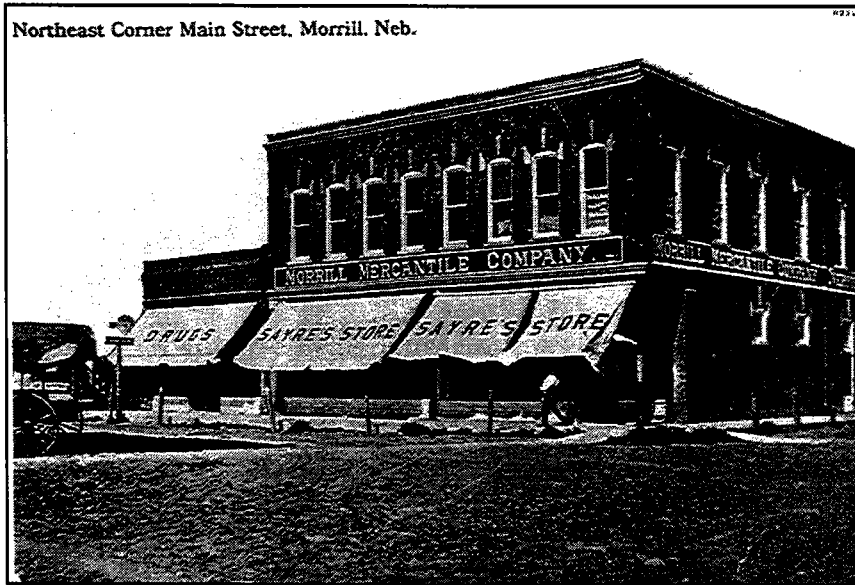
Morrill is located in the northwestern part of the county, north of the North Platte River. In 1886, four men with the surnames of Akers, Ford, Richards, and Weeks founded the community of Collins. In 1889, the site, named after Fort Collins, Colorado, housed a post office. Poor agricultural conditions during the first several years of settlement resulted in the construction of an eight-mile primitive canal system, which was eventually utilized by the Tri-State Canal system. In response to the upcoming arrival of the railroad, Collins was relocated to the current location of Morrill. The tract of land for the new town was platted by Charles Henry Morrill, president of the Lincoln Land Company and later a regent of the University of Nebraska. Morrill developed because of a rumor regarding the erection of a Burlington Railroad depot in the vicinity. Morrill displayed a unique "Y" section of

51. *Scotts Bluff County Centennial Cookbook 1888-1988* (1988), 142a; "Great Western Company History (Mitchell)," (circa 1953), 2, NeSHPO, Lincoln, NE; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Ferris Fire Insurance Map of Mitchell, Nebraska* (1931); Addison E. Sheldon, ed., *The Nebraska Blue Book and Historical Register 1920* (Lincoln, NE, 1920), 396; Nebraska Legislative Council, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1940* (Lincoln, NE, 1940), 310.

52. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Ferris Fire Insurance Map of Mitchell, Nebraska* (1931); Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1992-1993* (Lincoln, NE, 1993), 893.

Burlington track which provided easy access for freight and passenger train from Bridgeport, Nebraska.⁵³

In 1907, following a residential and commercial construction boom related to nearby irrigation activities, Morrill became incorporated. In 1910, a raging fire destroyed a substantial portion of the commercial district in Morrill. The destroyed frame buildings were replaced by brick buildings. A few decades later, in 1931, the downtown



Commercial District, Morrill, Nebraska (NPVM)

district was centered at the intersection of Webster and Centre Avenue. It consisted mostly of brick buildings with a few displaying concrete brick and veneered elevations. Businesses located in the district included a post office, theater, garage, drug store, and offices. Morrill's economic prosperity relied on the sugar beet and dry bean industries, as well as its role as a shipping center for potatoes. In 1940, the population of Morrill was reported at 877. The community's population peaked in 1980 at 1,380 people and dropped to 974 one decade later.⁵⁴

SCOTTSSLUFF

Scottsbluff, located in the center of the county along the north bank of the North Platte River, emerged as a result of the presence of the Burlington Railroad. In December 1899, Anselmo B. Smith, a surveyor for a department of the Burlington

53. Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 93-94; Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1988), 105; Elton Perkey, *Perkey's Nebraska Place-Names* (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1982), 174.

54. Jane Graff, coor., *Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1988), 106-107; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Ferris Fire Insurance Map of Morrill, Nebraska* (1931); Elton Perkey, *Perkey's Nebraska Place-Names* (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1982), 174; Nebraska Legislative Council, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1950* (Lincoln, NE, 1950), 344; Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1992-1993*

Railroad known as the Lincoln Land Company, platted the original townsite of Scottsbluff on the southeast quarter of Section 23, Township 22 North, Range 55 West. The site, consisting of fifteen blocks with streets and alleys, measured approximately 40 acres on land formerly owned by Elizabeth McClenahan. On January 20, 1900 the plat was filed with the Scotts Bluff County Clerk and one month later the tracks of the Burlington Railroad reached the fledgling community.⁵⁵

By the turn of the century, the development of the Laramie and Tri-State irrigation canals enticed construction workers to enter the county. As a result, business in Scottsbluff increased, and by 1907 many of the frame commercial buildings, wood sidewalks, and gas lamps were replaced with brick buildings, concrete walks and electric fixtures. In 1910, Scottsbluff experienced another economic boom with the erection of a sugar beet factory (SF00-003) near the northeast end of town by the Great Western Sugar Company.⁵⁶ Conditions for everyone changed and it was noted that "When the farmers prospered everyone prospered. Most business firms outgrew their original quarters, which necessitated the building of new and larger ones. There were many improvements as Scottsbluff took on a steady growth which has continued year after year....."⁵⁷

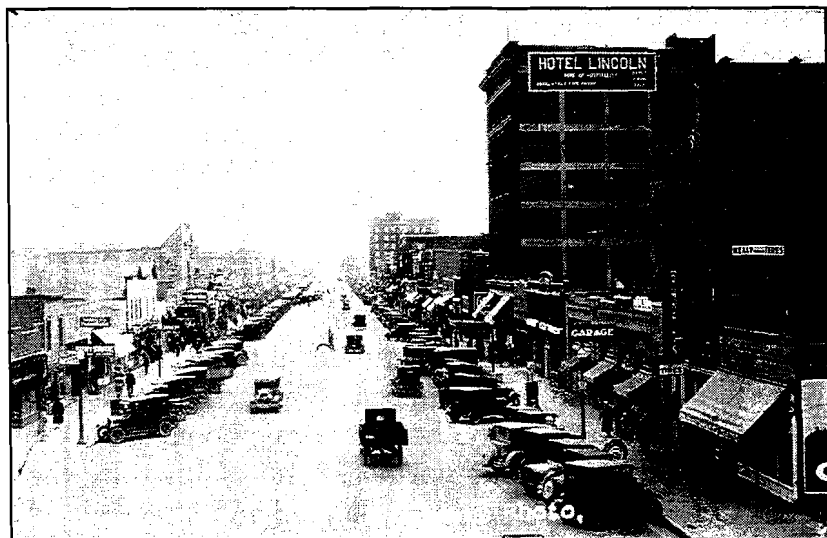
In 1912, the streets in Scottsbluff were named for various tribes, such as Cherokee, Sioux, Iroquois, Arapahoe, and Pawnee. Downtown ran from the railroad tracks north to Sioux Avenue (later known as 17th Street) along Main. The business district, consisting of mostly brick and a few frame buildings, displayed a drug store, barber shop, jewelry store, theater, bank bakery, hardware, store, furniture store, hotel, steam laundry, pool hall, and meeting halls. By 1918, the names of the avenues were changed to letters, streets became numbers, and Main Avenue was renamed Broadway. Downtown now ran north from the tracks to about 18th Street and in addition to the 1912 businesses featured, a meat shop, a garage, orpheum theater, drug store, bowling alley, and printing shop. In 1931, downtown businesses extended as far north as 19th Street and displayed brick construction. Additions to the business community included several auto sales and service companies, the West Nebraska Methodist Hospital, two movie theaters (SF11-110), and a post office (SF11-151).⁵⁸

55. Thomas L. Green, comp., *Scottsbluff and the North Platte Valley* (Scottsbluff Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee), 7, 31.

56. *Scotts Bluff County Centennial Cookbook 1888-1988* (1988), 204a.

57. "Great Western Company History (Scottsbluff)," (circa 1953), 1, NeSHPO, Lincoln, NE.

58. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Ferris Fire Insurance Map of Scottsbluff, Nebraska* (1912, 1918, 1931).



**Scottsbluff Commercial District,
Early 20th Century (NPVM)**

Population, building, and administrative changes occurred in Scottsbluff in relation to the irrigation and sugar beet industries. In 1910 the population of Scottsbluff reached 1,746. One year later, the increased population pressured officials to modernize the governing system with a mayor and city council instead of the village board. By 1918, a brick dormitory, erected by the Great Western Sugar Company, occupied the northeast corner of

Overland Drive and 14th Avenue, one-half mile west of the factory and by 1924, a large addition had been constructed on the north side of the dormitory (SF11-168). In 1930, the population of Scottsbluff had jumped to 8,465 and increased significantly ten years later, when the population reached 12,057. In 1990, 13,711 people lived in Scottsbluff.⁵⁹

**Residential
Neighborhood,
Scottsbluff,
Nebraska
Early 20th Century
(NPVM)**



59. Thomas L. Green, comp., *Scottsbluff and the North Platte Valley* (Scottsbluff Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee), 7-9; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Sanborn-Ferris Fire Insurance Map of Scottsbluff, Nebraska* (1918, 1924); Nebraska Legislative Council, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1940* (Lincoln, NE, 1940), 311; Nebraska Legislative Council, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1950* (Lincoln, NE, 1950), 346; Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1992-1993* (Lincoln, NE, 1993), 893.

TERRYTOWN

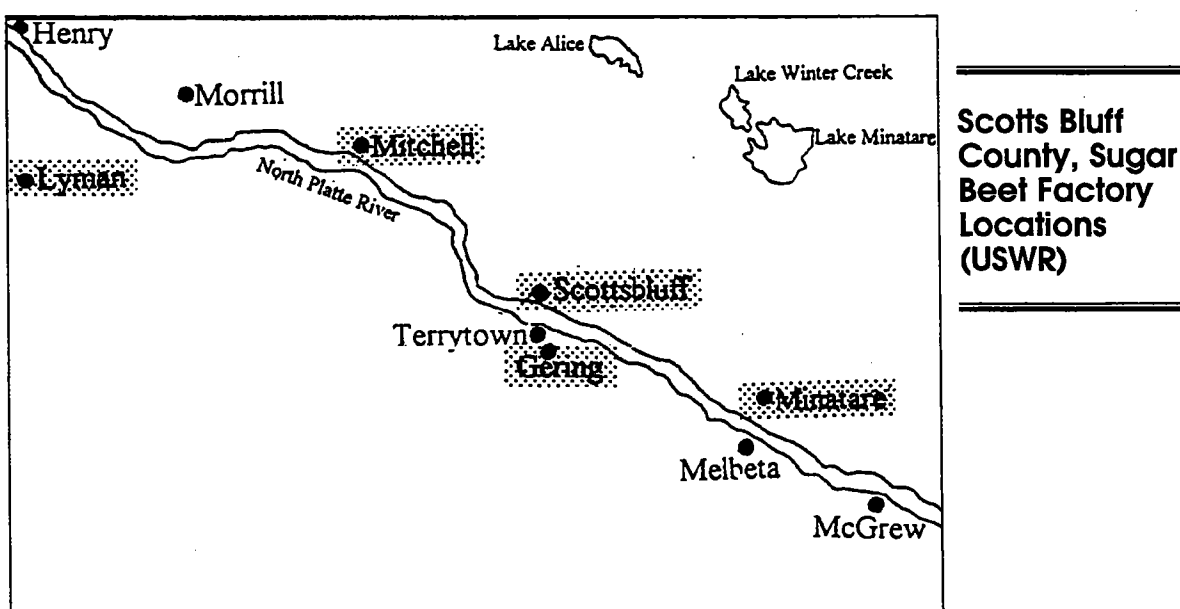
Terrytown is located along the southern bank of the North Platte River between Gering and Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Terry McGovern Carpenter, who served his constituency in state and federal government for thirty-eight years and established the first and only oil refinery in Nebraska, founded the community on the North Platte River bottom land. Carpenter used sand and gravel from his land to establish a brick factory. The large hole, created by the extraction of supplies for the factory, became Terry's Lake. In 1948, since neither Gering nor Scottsbluff approved annexation of Carpenter's property, he applied for official recognition of the village of Terrytown. The new community of Terrytown housed a large brick apartment complex, restaurant, bakery, drive-in picture show, and liquor store (not surveyed due to relatively recent construction dates). In 1990, the population of Terrytown reached 656.⁶⁰

60. Discrepancy exists in historical sources regarding whether Carpenter purchased the land either around the Depression or after World War II. Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 81-83; *Scotts Bluff County Centennial Cookbook 1888-1988* (1988), 212a; Clerk of the Legislature, comp., *Nebraska Blue Book 1992-1993* (Lincoln, NE, 1993), 893.

III

Sugar Beet Industry in Scotts Bluff County

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SUGAR BEET INDUSTRY IN SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY



The sugar beet industry in Scotts Bluff County has been perhaps the single most important and influential economic factor in the county from 1910 to the present. It has affected the spatial arrangement of the villages, cities and neighborhoods within. It has influenced the ethnic makeup of the county. And it has provided nearly continuous labor for the county's population for nearly eight decades. However, it is important to note that a number of events happened in the county before the introduction of sugar beets, which made its success possible. First, the development of the railroad system provided transportation to move the beet sugar to market, and bring the coal to run the factories. Second, the introduction of an irrigation system within the North Platte River Valley provided sufficient water to grow the thirsty beets, assuring productive crops even during the driest growing seasons. The sugar beet industry, in many ways, defined Scotts Bluff County as it is known today.

In 1830, the first attempt to manufacture sugar from sugar beets in America took place in the city of Philadelphia. Although this early operation failed, the Northampton Beet Sugar Company in Massachusetts manufactured the first beet sugar in America in 1839. The manufacturing plant closed the following year because of inexperience in field and factory operations. In 1847, the Mormons also attempted

to establish a sugar beet factory for their own use in Utah, but production was hindered by the difficulty of receiving supplies and problems of crystallizing the sugar. Other early attempts at the sugar beet industry took place in Illinois, Wisconsin, and finally California where the first successful sugar beet factory was established. After receiving only partial success at a factory constructed in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, a German entrepreneur erected a factory in Alvarado, California with E.H. Dyer in 1870. The factory produced 250 tons of sugar the first year and 750 tons by 1873, but the plant did not have continued success and was moved to Santa Cruz County, California. E.H. Dyer reestablished the factory in Alvarado, California in 1879 and since its reconstruction it was in continuous operation, until at least 1937. As a result of his success, E.H. Dyer was known as "the father of the American beet sugar industry."¹

By 1890, the second factory to operate successfully in the United States, and the first in the state of Nebraska, was established in Grand Island by the Oxnard brothers who became interested in the beet industry and made extensive studies of the soil and climate in both Europe and the United States. Before the establishment of a factory in Grand Island, citizens of Hall County, Nebraska believed that the sugar beet industry was feasible in their area. Soil samples were analyzed and early beets were tested at the University of Nebraska and in Washington, D.C. Tests revealed that the beets produced a satisfactory level of sugar and in 1889 it was decided that a factory would be located at Grand Island. Even with the construction of a factory, the beet industry developed slowly in Hall County for a number of reasons. Since Hall County was one of the first places in the country where the beet industry was introduced, there were few examples or experiments from which the farmers could learn how to raise and cultivate successful beet crops. Additionally, the weather did not cooperate the first few years. Both droughts and rainy seasons yielded low crop levels and discouraged farmers.²

In order to encourage the sugar beet industry, the state of Nebraska offered a bounty of one cent per pound on sugar produced in Nebraska. The Grand Island factory received a payment of \$7,364.00 in 1890, their first year of production. The new bounty on sugar beet production encouraged the erection of more factories in Nebraska. The Oxnard brothers erected a second factory in Norfolk, northeastern Nebraska, in 1891. The farmers in the area of the Norfolk factory discovered that they received better returns raising corn and livestock than sugar beets and the factory was abandoned in 1905 and the equipment was moved to Lamar, Colorado. The state bounty

1. Esther S. Anderson, *The Sugar Beet Industry of Nebraska*, Bul. 9 (Lincoln: Conservation Department of the Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska, 1937), 15-17.

2. Esther S. Anderson, *The Sugar Beet Industry of Nebraska*, Bul. 9 (Lincoln: Conservation Department of the Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska, 1937), 17-18.

on sugar was repealed and by 1892, it was predicted that the McKinley tariff was to be repealed, both of which forced lower prices for sugar beets and slowed the sugar beet industry development in Nebraska. Since the price of beets was reduced from \$5.00 to \$4.00 per ton, farmers had not planted enough beets to keep the factories running for a reasonable length of time. In 1895, the state offered a bounty of five-eighths of a cent per pound of sugar manufactured in hopes to raise the price of beets back to \$5.00 per ton and thus encourage farmers to plant sugar beets again.³

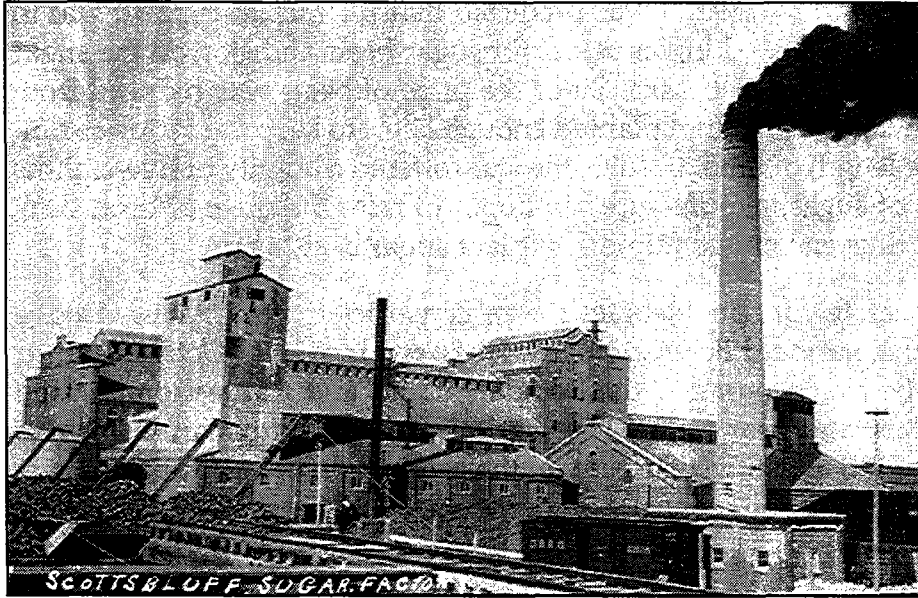
The next sugar beet factory in Nebraska was constructed near Ames, Dodge County in 1899, by the Standard Beet Company. Heyward Leavitt of Dodge County, interested in sugar beets, encouraged the Standard Land and Cattle Company to raise sugar beets on its land near Ames. The services of Henry Huxman, a German beet expert, were hired to assist the company in the production of beets and the success of the experiment led to the construction of the Standard Beet Company factory in Ames.⁴

The sugar beet industry in the North Platte Valley of Nebraska was encouraged by the extension of the railroad into the area at the turn of the century. Sugar beets were raised early in the valley by Mr. Otto Jurgens, who shipped them to the Ames factory for testing. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Leavitt, president of the Standard Beet Company of Ames, Nebraska, interested in new opportunities, recognized the potential for the sugar beet industry in the North Platte Valley. The potential for sugar beet production existed only utilizing irrigation and Mr. Leavitt and his associates purchased large acreage in the area and promoted the building of the Tri-State Canal, then known as the Farmers Canal. The first contracts to grow sugar beets were made with the Standard Beet Sugar Company in the winter of 1904 to 1905 and totalled about 160 acres. The following season approximately 150 acres were grown under contract and 450 acres were grown by the Standard Beet Sugar Company. The farmers of Scotts Bluff County were unfamiliar with the process of beet production, so efforts were made to induce help from experienced growers. It was at this time that German-Russian beet workers were enticed from Lincoln to the North Platte Valley. In the spring of 1908 the Great Western Sugar Company obtained about 1500 acres in the valley for beet cultivation. The harvested beets were sent to their factory in Sterling, Colorado for production.⁵

3. Esther S. Anderson, *The Sugar Beet Industry of Nebraska*, Bul. 9 (Lincoln: Conservation Department of the Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska, 1937), 19-20.

4. Greg Miller, "Sugar Beet Industry in Nebraska" *Historic Context Report* 11.06 (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 1994), 1.

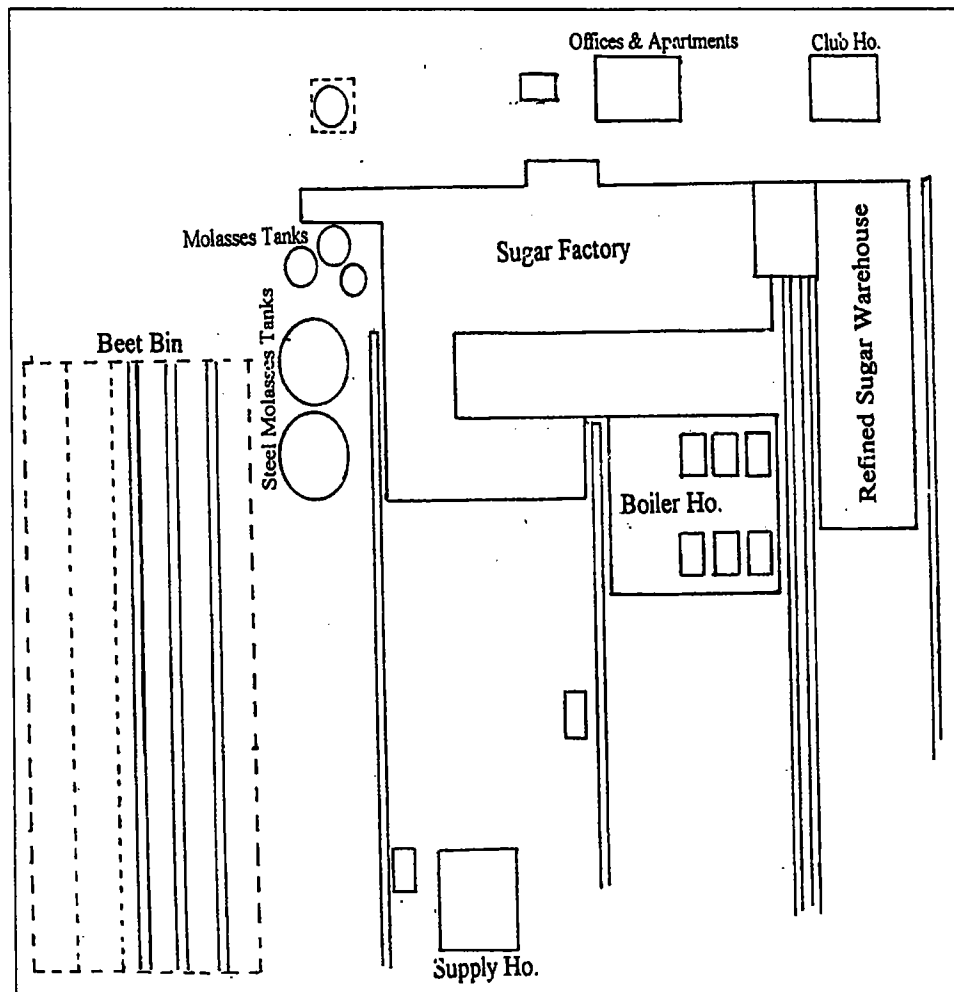
5. Esther S. Anderson, *The Sugar Beet Industry of Nebraska*, Bul. 9 (Lincoln: Conservation Department of the Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska, 1937), 20; Gus Heldt, "Beginnings of the Sugar Beet Industry in the North Platte Valley," *Sagas of the Sugar Press* (1962): 24-25.



Scottsbluff
Sugar Factory
circa 1920
(NSHS)

As a result of the success of the beets that had been sent to Ames, the Scottsbluff Chamber of Commerce became interested in securing a sugar beet production plant in their town. In 1908, the Chamber of Commerce sent a committee to Denver to discuss the possibility with C.H. Morey, the president of the Great Western Sugar Company. It was not until the following spring that the company began to take any action toward the establishment of a plant in Scottsbluff as early attempts were made to purchase land for the factory site. Agreements for the land purchase were made, but the Great Western Sugar Company was short \$30,000.00 of the amount contracted for the land. The Chamber of Commerce committee then proceeded to appeal to farmers for subscriptions to raise the additional funds. The committee was successful in raising \$27,800.00 in notes and settled with the sugar company for \$21,000.00, returning the excess funds to the subscribers. The factory site was only the first step, as the committee still needed to contract for 12,000 acres of sugar beets. Growers and the sugar beet companies entered contracts where the farmers agreed to utilize a set amount of acreage for beet cultivation and therefore the factory could predict the amount of sugar beets to be harvested during the fall. The contracts were fulfilled and in 1909 the Great Western Sugar Company purchased the Ames factory, including the equipment and building, and moved it to Scottsbluff. The relocated factory (SF00-003), ready for production in the fall of 1910, has continued annual production to the present.⁶

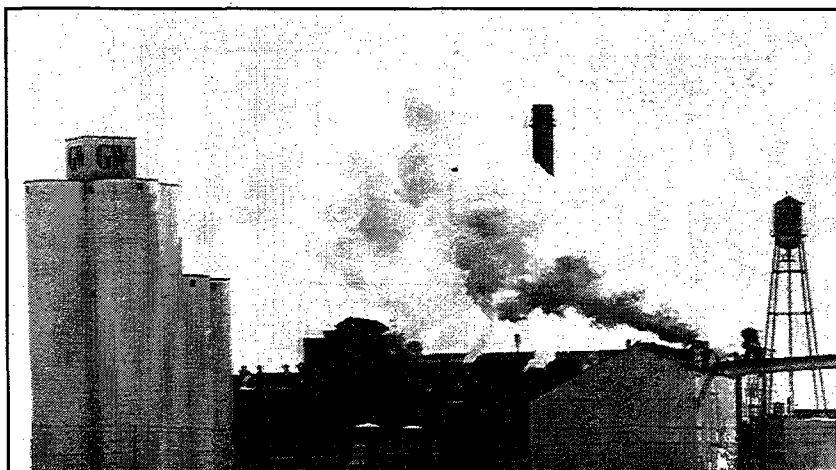
6. J.C. McCreary, "How the Beet Sugar Industry Came to the North Platte Valley," *Scottsbluff and the North Platte Valley* (Scottsbluff, NE: Scottsbluff Golden Jubilee Committee, n.d.), 53-54; Esther S. Anderson, *The Sugar Beet Industry of Nebraska* Bul. 9 (Lincoln: Conservation Department of the Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska, 1937), 19-21, 85.



**Plan of Great Western Sugar Company Factory, Scottsbluff,
Nebraska (as seen in 1918)**

The volume of sugar beet production increased over the years and led to the construction of several factories in the North Platte Valley. In 1905 the acreage of sugar beets planted was about 250, yielding about seven tons of beets per acre, but by 1933, North Platte Valley farmers cultivated about 88,000 acres and produced about 12.12 tons of beets per acre. Sugar beets proved to be a successful industry for the North Platte Valley and five factories were constructed after the Scottsbluff factory. The Gering factory (SF00-025) was constructed in 1916, and was the first factory to have a pulp dryer with an original capacity of 1200 tons. In 1917 a factory was constructed in Bayard, Morrill County, Nebraska. In the 1920s, three additional factories were constructed in Scotts Bluff County. The Mitchell factory (SF00-027), constructed in 1920, had an original capacity to process 1300 tons and the equipment for the

factory was moved from Great Western's mill in Missoula, Montana. Smaller factories were constructed in Minatare (SF00-298) in 1926 and Lyman (SF00-284) in 1927.⁷



**Gering Sugar
Factory
circa 1940
(NPVM)**

By 1913, despite the sugar beet industry's slow beginnings, seventy-eight factories were established in sixteen states by a number of companies. In 1929, eighty-two factories were operating in the United States, with seventeen in Colorado, twelve in Michigan, ten in Utah, seven in Nebraska, seven in Idaho, five each in California and Ohio, four each in Montana and Wyoming, three in Wisconsin, two each in Minnesota and Iowa, and one each in Washington, Indiana, Kansas and South Dakota. The number of factories continued to increase throughout the 1920s and 1930s and by 1937, more than ninety factories were established in the United States.⁸

SUGAR BEET WORKERS

Numerous skilled and unskilled laborers were needed to grow, cultivate, and harvest beets. Skilled labor included planting, plowing, cultivating, lifting and hauling, while unskilled labor included thinning, hoeing, weeding, topping, and piling. A majority of the workers in the fields were seasonal labor and often immigrants to the United States. Laborers often came from the large cities, such as Omaha and Lincoln in the spring and returned to the cities in the fall after harvest. The lack of laborers in

7. James Lyon, ed., "The Grand Old Days of Great Western," *The Sugar Press* (August and September 1960); Esther S. Anderson, *The Sugar Beet Industry of Nebraska* Bul. 9 (Lincoln: Conservation Department of the Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska, 1937), 21.

8. Harry A. Austin, *History and Development of the Beet Sugar Industry* (Washington, D.C., 1928), 22; Esther S. Anderson, *The Sugar Beet Industry of Nebraska* Bul. 9 (Lincoln: Conservation Department of the Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska, 1937), 17, 27.

the North Platte Valley forced the Great Western Sugar Company to recruit workers. In 1915, the company shipped approximately five hundred laborers for harvest, a practice continued annually as necessary. The number of laborers reached 2,500 in 1917, 9,000 in 1919 and continued to fluctuate over the years reaching a high of 14,538 in 1926.⁹



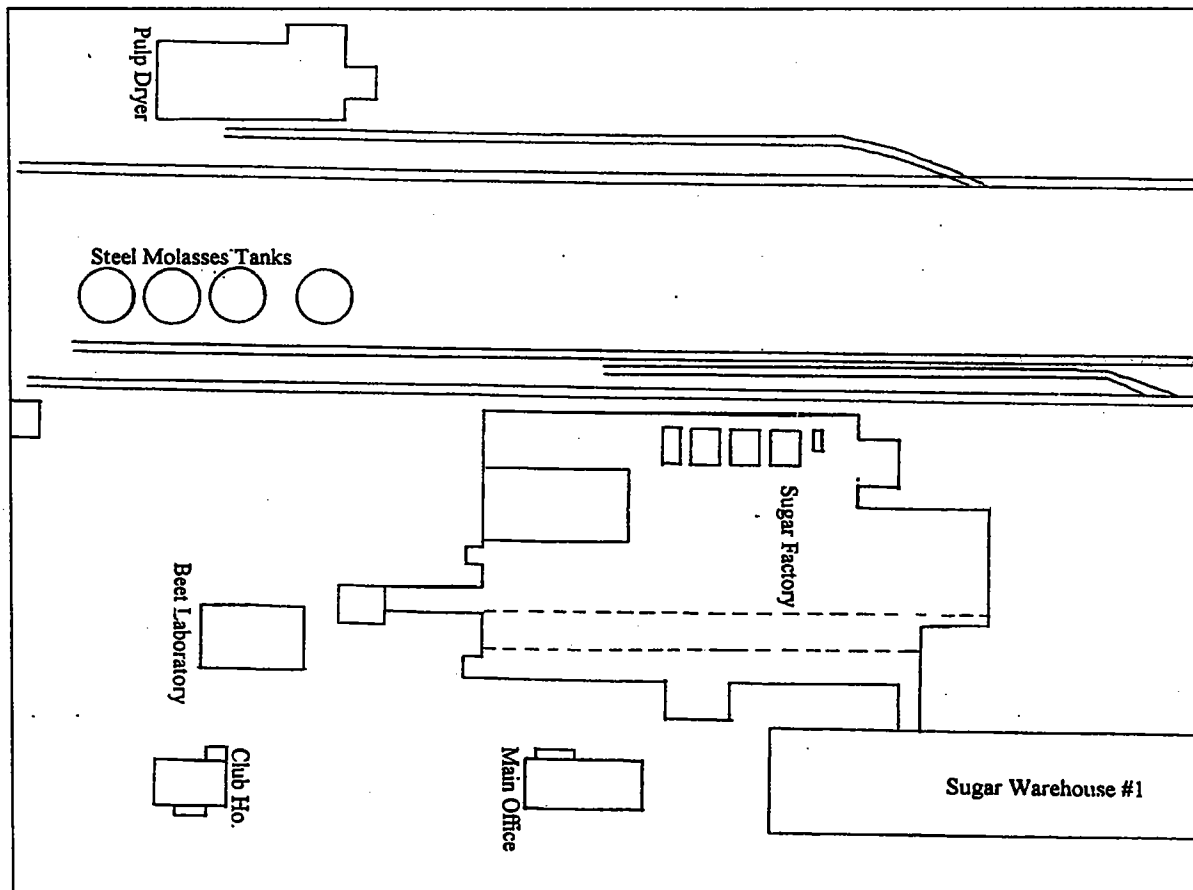
Hauling Sugar Beets in Minatare, Nebraska (NPVM)

Germans From Russia

The first group to be employed in the Scotts Bluff County fields and factories were Germans from Russia, also known as Volga Germans and German-Russians. Catherine the Great, a woman of German heritage and ruler of Russia from 1762 to 1796, implemented a Manifesto dated 1763 which provided Germans the ability to acquire approximately 80 acres of farm land in the Volga Valley area of Russia. The Manifesto provided religious, local government, and education freedoms, military immunity, financial incentives, as well as free one-way passage from Germany. Five years after implementation of the Manifesto, over one hundred German communities

9. Esther S. Anderson, *The Sugar Beet Industry of Nebraska* Bul. 9 (Lincoln: Conservation Department of the Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska, 1937), 86, 88; Esther S. Anderson, "The Beet Sugar Industry of Nebraska," *Economic Geography* 1 (October 1925): 381.

sprang up along the Volga River in response to the Manifesto. In 1768, due to the high number of Germans taking advantage of the inexpensive land, the German leadership halted migration into Russia. By 1895, the German population along the Volga River reached 391,000. However, changing economic and political conditions in Russia, such as the Russo-Japanese War in 1904 and the expectancy of the Germans along the Volga to fight, prompted residents of the colonies to consider the advertisements from the United States for land in the Great Plains. The first Germans from Russia arrived in Nebraska in 1874 and migration to the United States continued for several decades after the turn of the century.¹⁰



**Plan of Great Western Sugar Company Factory, Gering, Nebraska
(as seen in 1928)**

10. *Broken Hoops and Plains People* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Printing and Duplicating Service, 1976), 195-196, 199-200.

Although several Germans from Russia families are reported to have resided in Scotts Bluff County in the first decade of the twentieth century, it was not until 1910 that the county census statistics reported their permanent settlement. During that year, the sugar factory was constructed in Scottsbluff and the Great Western Company utilized recruitment practices to find labor in Nebraska cities and villages. It is likely that the Germans from Russia recruited to Scotts Bluff County had previous experience in the beet fields in east-central Nebraska. It was typical for entire families to leave the larger cities of eastern Nebraska and come to the North Platte Valley for the beet season. The use of the entire family ensured a sugar beet farmer more labor on larger sections of land.¹¹

In 1920, the census reported that 2,228 Germans from Russia comprised over ten percent of the population in the county. Germans from Russia communities sprang up throughout the county with the largest located in Scottsbluff. First generation permanent houses constructed by Germans from Russia in Scottsbluff were located on lots divided several times to accommodate more buildings and families. During the beet season, families shifted from the cities and villages to temporary dwellings near the fields. In 1924 a study of the sugar beet industry prepared for the National Child Labor Committee reported that a "characteristic shack provided for families working in the beet fields is a cheaply-built, unfinished, unceiled shelter of one, two or three rooms, often covered with tar or building-paper."¹²

The number of Germans from Russia laborers declined, as they began to rent or own land, or move on to other occupations. Since Germans from Russia gained a reputation among local bankers as good credit risks, they often received loans to purchase their own land and equipment. As a result of World War I and changing immigration patterns, Germans from Russia emigration diminished and both the sugar factories and farmers were forced to find an alternate source of workers.¹³

11. Richard Sallet, *Russian-German Settlements in the United States* (Fargo: North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1974), 52; Greg Miller, "Sugar Beet Industry in Nebraska" *Historic Context Report 11.06* (NeSHPO, 1994), 3.

12. Sara A. Brown and Robie O. Sargent, *Children Working in the Sugar Beet Fields of the North Platte Valley of Nebraska* (New York: National Child Labor Committee, 1924), 48-49; Wayne Wheeler, *An Almanac of Nebraska Nationality, Ethnic, and Racial Groups* (Omaha, NE: Park Bromwell Press, 1975), 230.

13. Richard Sallet, *Russian-German Settlements in the United States* (Fargo: North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, 1974), 52; Greg Miller, "Sugar Beet Industry in Nebraska" *Historic Context Report 11.06* (NeSHPO, 1994), 3.



Pumping on the
William Frank
Farm near
Scottsbluff,
Nebraska
(NPVM)

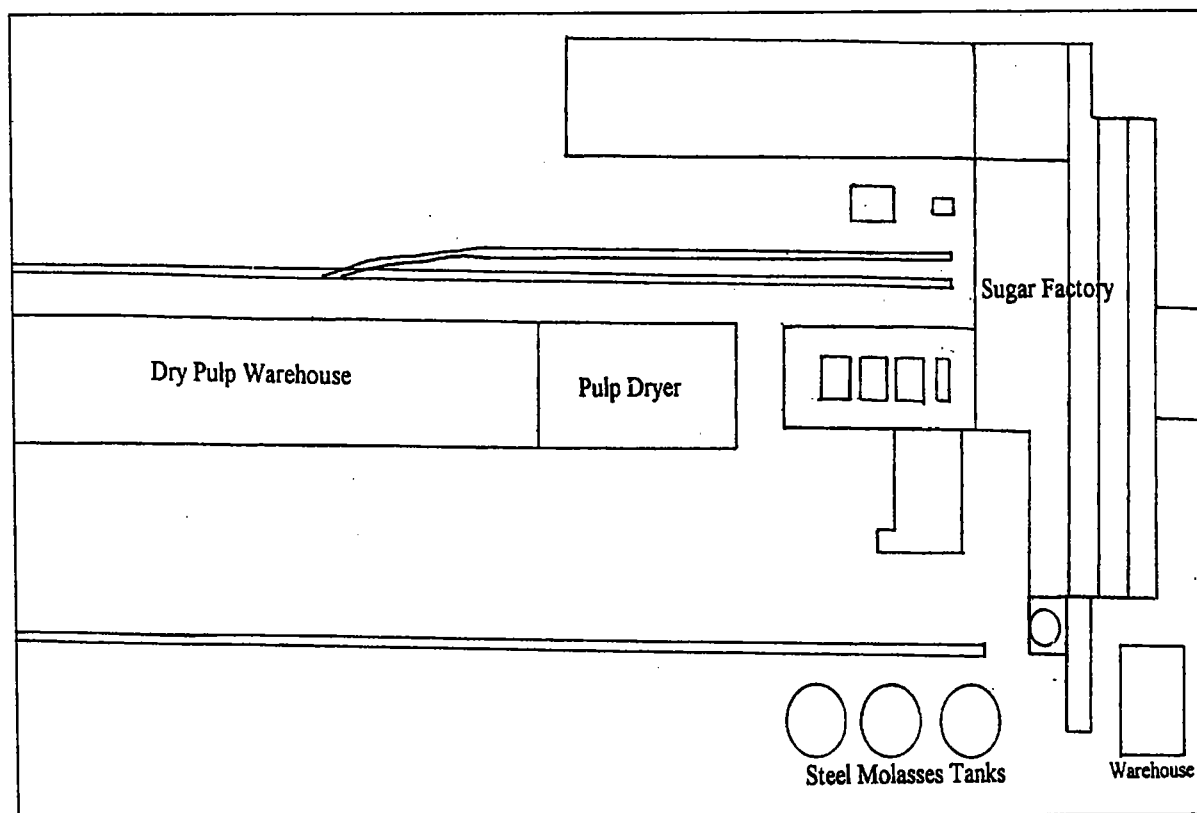
Japanese-Americans

Japanese-Americans were another ethnic group involved as workers in the sugar beet industry in Nebraska. The 1895 Sino-Japanese War, the Russo-Japanese War of 1905, and Japan's shift from isolationism prompted single male laborers to migrate to the United States to work for money to send home. Most Nebraska Issei, a term for first generation Japanese in the United States, were born in the late 1800s, grew up on farms in Japan, and arrived in the United States through ports at San Francisco, Seattle, Tacoma, as well as Canada and Mexico. Hiram Kano, a prominent Nebraskan of Japanese heritage and an agricultural specialist, noted that "nearly all of the 46 prefectures into which Japan is divided sent some immigrants to Nebraska; the largest number came from Hiroshima, with Okayama Prefecture second."¹⁴

The Japanese initially arrived in Nebraska under the direction of the railroad companies. In 1910, when railroad construction was finished in the state, approximately 500 Japanese found themselves unemployed. While some 200 Japanese went to work in the meat packing industry in eastern Nebraska, many of the remainder travelled to work for the Great Western Sugar Company. The completion of the railroad corresponded with the erection of the sugar factory in Scottsbluff and the utilization of 12,000 acres for sugar beet crops. In 1918, Scotts Bluff County reported that approxi-

14. Hiram H. Kano, *A History of the Japanese in Nebraska* (Crawford, NE: Cottonwood Press, 1984), Introduction, 4, 27-28; *Broken Hoops and Plains People* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Printing and Duplicating Service, 1976), 48.

mately 200 Japanese worked in the sugar beet industry. In 1925, approximately 150 Issei operated farms along the Platte River in Nebraska producing sugar beets, potatoes, and corn. As a result of their strong work ethic, many were awarded with trophies from the sugar company for yielding the most sugar beets per acre.¹⁵



**Plan of Great Western Sugar Company Factory, Mitchell, Nebraska
(as seen in 1931)**

Several major world events influenced the sugar beet industry in Scotts Bluff County. During World War I, to ensure an adequate supply of sugar, the federal government required all sugar companies to raise sugar beets prices by \$4.00 per ton, increasing the amount to \$10.00 per ton. At the time of World War II, most Japanese in the United States were forced into internment camps. However, since many of the

15. Hiram H. Kano, *A History of the Japanese in Nebraska* (Crawford, NE: Cottonwood Press, 1984), 4, 6-7, 17; *Broken Hoops and Plains People* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Printing and Duplicating Service, 1976), 407-408, 413-414.

beet growers in Nebraska were Japanese, they were allowed to remain on their farms and produce for the war effort.¹⁶

The Issei who lived in Scotts Bluff County retained strong cultural ties to their Japanese homeland. To ensure this link, a Japanese newspaper, *Neshyu Jiho* (Nebraska News), was one of just over a dozen of its kind distributed in the United States in 1920. Chartering organizations, such as the Lincoln County Association, the Nebraska Japanese Association, and the Mitchell Business Association, in the North Platte Valley also fostered a sense of unity for the Japanese. In 1928, both Japanese Americanization halls (not extant) and Japanese language schools were developed in Scottsbluff and Mitchell. Even as late as 1949, an organization known as the Scottsbluff Kyudokai was formed to unify Japanese in the region.¹⁷

Federal and state legislation threatened the rights of Japanese living in Scotts Bluff County for almost fifty years. It was not until June of 1952, when Congress enacted the Walter-McCarran Act (also known as the Naturalization Act of 1952) that the perspective regarding Japanese aliens in the United States changed. This act, which nullified the Oriental Exclusion Act of 1924, provided that Japanese aliens living in the United States could apply for citizenship and that family members of citizens could transplant to the United States. At the time, approximately 30 percent of the 700 Japanese living in Nebraska were aliens. In response to the act, a school for citizenship was established in Scottsbluff and the mean age of its student body was sixty years old. In 1960, 905 Japanese-Americans lived in Nebraska and a decade later, the state boasted 1,314.¹⁸

Mexican-Americans

As the traditional sources of labor provided by Germans from Russia and Japanese-Americans declined and the number of acres of land being planted with sugar beets was increased, the Great Western Sugar Company was forced to recruit new workers. Mexicans migrated to Nebraska and other Midwestern states in large numbers between 1900 and 1930. Approximately 27 Mexicans Americans lived in Nebraska at the turn of the century. During the next decade, the number increased to 3,611. This increase was a result of the terrible conditions in Mexico under the lead-

16. Hiram H. Kano, *A History of the Japanese in Nebraska* (Crawford, NE: Cottonwood Press, 1984), 27-28.

17. Hiram H. Kano, *A History of the Japanese in Nebraska* (Crawford, NE: Cottonwood Press, 1984), 7, 22-23; *Broken Hoops and Plains People* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Printing and Duplicating Service, 1976), 409-410.

18. Hiram H. Kano, *A History of the Japanese in Nebraska* (Crawford, NE: Cottonwood Press, 1984), Introduction, 8, 28-29; *Broken Hoops and Plains People* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Printing and Duplicating Service, 1976), 407.

ership of Porfirio Diaz. The reign of Diaz resulted in low wages, high illiteracy rates, poor health care, and most importantly an extremely low percentage of land ownership among the majority of the population. The decline of both Japanese migration in the first decade of the 1900s and of Germans from Russia with the onset of World War I increased solicitation of workers from Mexico for the beet fields of Scotts Bluff County.¹⁹

While many of the Mexicans were first introduced to Nebraska as Union Pacific and Burlington railroad workers, others entered the Scotts Bluff area as workers for the Great Western Sugar Company. In 1915, the Great Western relocated 500 workers to its factories in four states, including Nebraska. A large amount of Mexicans working in the Plains states arrived from the Mexican states of Jalisco, Michoacan, Guanajuato, San Louis Potosi, and Zacatecas. In 1920, as a result of modified legislative standards, the Great Western Sugar Company expanded its recruitment practices and even sent representatives to southern states in the winter to recruit workers.²⁰

Since Great Western found success in the employment of Mexicans, the company continued to recruit workers for employment in Scotts Bluff County. In 1923, Great Western developed "colonies" for Mexican families on the edges of urban settings in the county and sold its own land for a reasonable price of \$50.00 per lot. This new community spirit fostered the formation of Mexican organizations in the county, such as the Comision Honorifica for men and Cruz Azul for woman. During the 1920s, the company allocated a significant amount of money regarding soliciting and transporting migrant workers from southern states. In 1930, 2,190 Mexicans resided in Scotts Bluff County. Many of these individuals had previously labored in other states such as Kansas, Texas, Wyoming, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona. In the mid 1960s, new government restrictions ended the labor resource of Mexican nationals, requiring the Great Western to abide licensing standards when recruiting Mexican-Americans residing in Texas. Sugar beet harvesting and processing required approximately 6,000 contract workers during this period.²¹

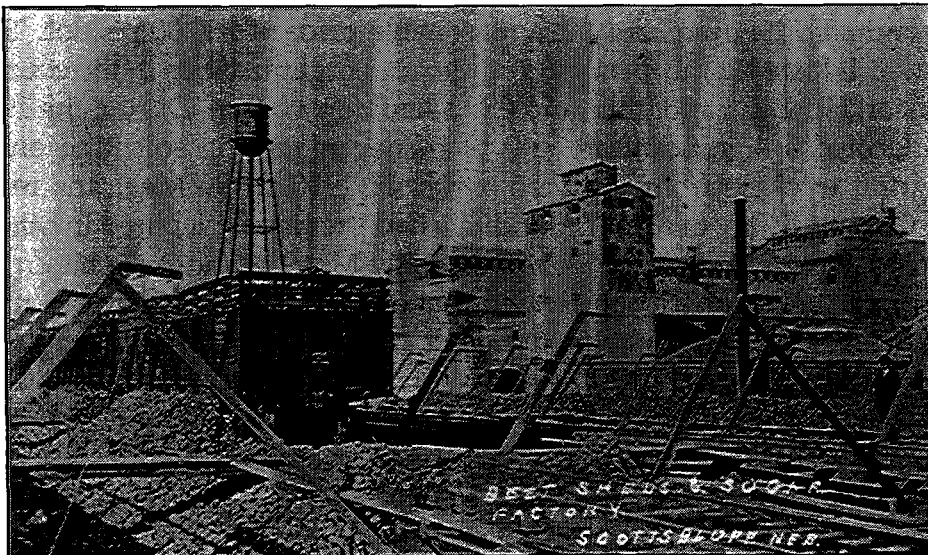
19. *Broken Hoops and Plains People* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Printing and Duplicating Service, 1976), 52-54, 58-59.

20. *Broken Hoops and Plains People* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Printing and Duplicating Service, 1976), 59-60; Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 56-57; Janeth Wahl, *Mexican and Mexican American Fiestas and Celebrations in Scottsbluff, Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, u.d.), 6.

21. Sara A. Brown and Robie O. Sargent, *Children Working in the Sugar Beet Fields of the North Platte Valley of Nebraska* (New York: National Child Labor Committee, 1924), 66; Janeth Wahl, *Mexican and Mexican American Fiestas and Celebrations in Scottsbluff, Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, u.d.), 7; *Broken Hoops and Plains People* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Printing and Duplicating Service, 1976), 60; Jane Barbour Ramsey, *North Platte Valley Tales* (Estes Park, CO: Meadow Circle Publications, 1990), 57; Elizabeth Broadbent, "The Distribution of Mexican Population in the United States," (Ph.D. diss., University of Chicago, 1941), 95.

Many Mexicans entered Scotts Bluff County with the plan of working in the area on a temporary basis. However, many eventually ended up settling in the country. The 1970 census noted that 28,680 Mexican-Americans lived in the state of Nebraska and over fifty percent of these families had been in the state for two generations.²²

By mid to late twentieth century, a few factors changed the labor needs in Scotts Bluff County. The number of laborers needed in the sugar beet industry declined as increased mechanization processes and machinery replaced workers. By 1949, sixty percent of the beets were harvested by machine in western Nebraska, greatly decreasing the number of laborers needed. Also, in the 1980s only seven operating sugar beet factories were located in the United States, all owned by Tate and Lyle of London. Locations of the factories were Greeley and Fort Morgan, Colorado; Mitchell, Scottsbluff, and Bayard, Nebraska; Billings and Lovell, Montana. The Mitchell and Scottsbluff factories remain operational to the present and Gering serves as a storage facility. The Lyman and Minatare factories, however, closed in the 1940s.²³



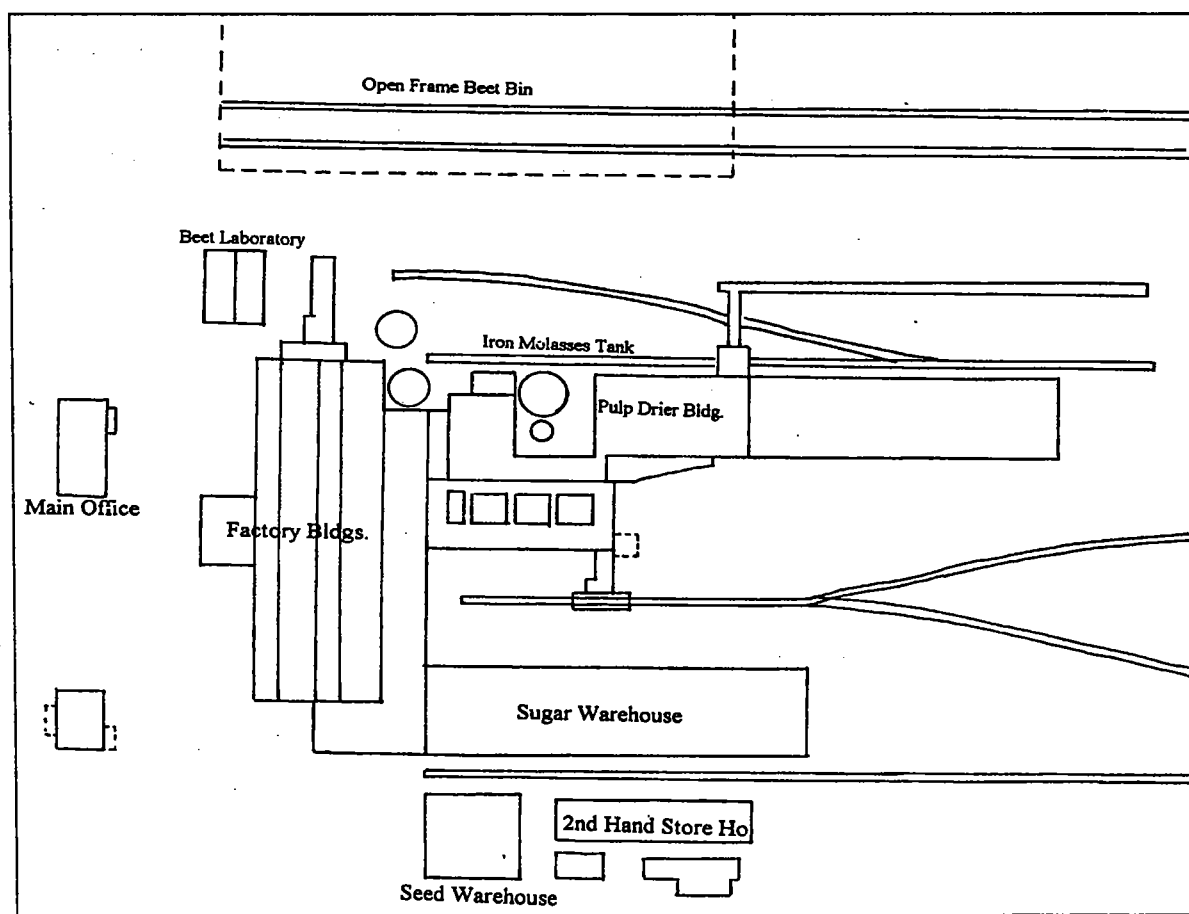
**Beet Sheds and Sugar Beet Factory, Scottsbluff, Nebraska
circa 1920 (NSHS)**

22. *Broken Hoops and Plains People* (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Printing and Duplicating Service, 1976), 52, 62.

23. M.S. Clement, "The Beet Sugar Industry," *Scottsbluff and the North Platte Valley* (Scottsbluff, NE: Scottsbluff Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee, n.d.), 58; Paul Lit, *Tate & Lyle Beet in the USA* Promotional pamphlet, n.p. ca. 1986.

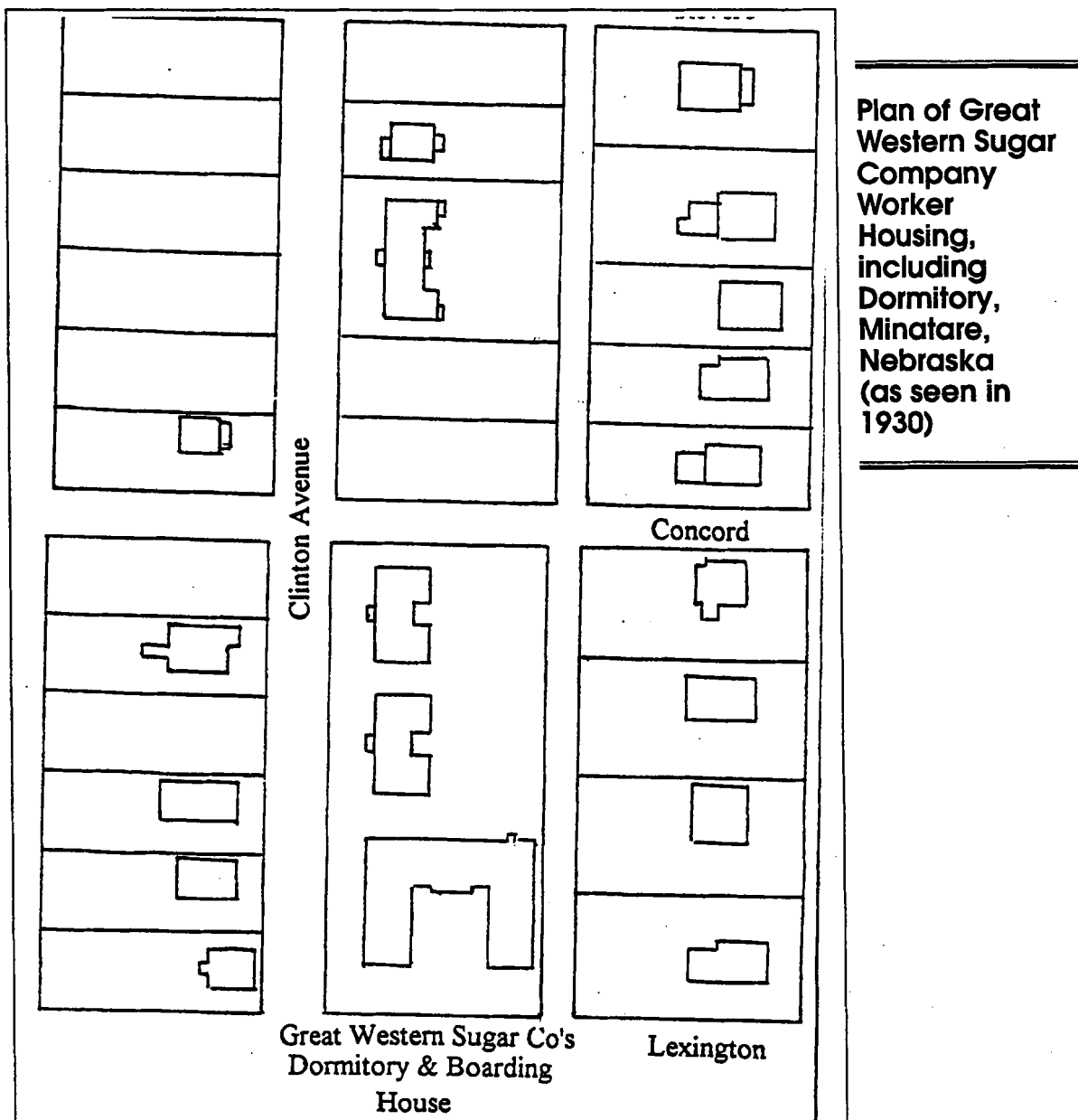
SURVEY RESULTS OF SUGAR BEET INDUSTRY

Five sugar beet factories, located in the communities of Gering (SF00-025), Lyman (SF00-284), Mitchell (SF00-027), Minatare (SF00-298), and Scottsbluff (SF00-284), were identified during the reconnaissance survey of Scotts Bluff County. Each of the factories is easily identifiable as a result of the red brick used in the construction of the main processing plants and the administration/office buildings, as well as the size, plan, pitch of the roof, and layout of the plants. Other factory related buildings and structures include storage sheds and water towers. The Scottsbluff and Mitchell factories are still in operation and retain most of their original buildings. The Gering factory is still used by the sugar company, however, it's buildings have been converted into a storage facility. The Lyman and Minatare factories display many of the origi-



**Plan of Great Western Sugar Company Factory, Minatare, Nebraska
(as seen in 1930)**

nal sugar beet related buildings, but since closing both have been in reuse by other operations. In relation to these factories, the Great Western erected dormitories, triplexes, and houses. Of the five communities in the county to support factories, Lyman, Mitchell, Minatare, and Scottsbluff have extant housing facilities. Seasonal workers often lived in the brick dormitories, duplexes, and triplexes near the factories. Construction dates for these facilities were often contemporary with the factories. The dormitories, located in Mitchell (SF09-001), Minatare (SF08-004), and Scottsbluff (SF11-186), resemble each other with red brick construction and stand two to two-and-one-half stories tall. The duplexes and triplexes, located in Mitchell (SF09-003, SF09-004) and Minatare (SF08-002, SF08-003), also were constructed of red brick and have gable roofs and irregular plans.



The Great Western Sugar Company also erected single dwellings to accommodate permanent workers, such as managers. These houses were constructed in the vicinity of the dormitories, duplexes, and triplexes. In Minatare, twenty-seven frame houses (SF08-001, SF08-011, SF08-034, SF08-037 to SF08-039, SF08-041 to SF08-043, SF08-059 to SF08-063, SF08-066 to SF08-78) were surveyed. Most residential buildings identified were of frame construction, often in the popular Bungalow style. Eight residential buildings (SF09-111 to SF09-118) were also surveyed to the south of the Mitchell factory. A total of 18 manager and worker houses (SF04-041 to SF04-058), erected by the Great Western Sugar Company in Lyman, surround a park on the east side of the community. These buildings display a variety of vernacular forms, including front gable, side gable, gabled ell, and one-story cube variations. The houses stand one, one-and-one half, and two stories tall. Common features include stucco and wood shingle siding, irregular and rectangular plans, four-over-four and six-over-six sash windows, and eight pane casements windows. Streets entitled North Park, South Park, East Park, West Park, and Center Park enclose a small triangular park with permanent recreation equipment.

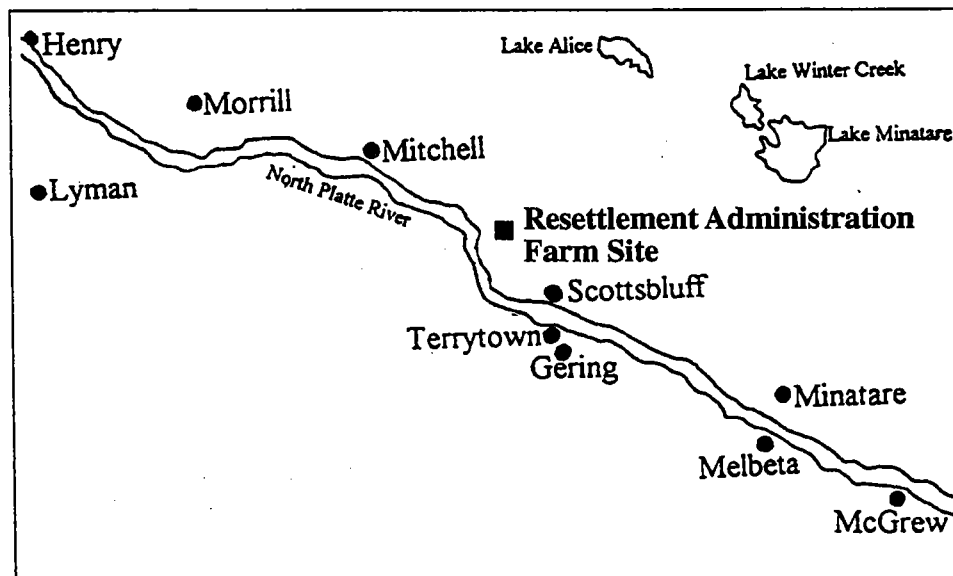
Two sugar beet shacks were surveyed in the southeast portion of Scotts Bluff County. Both buildings were identified by a man whose family tended beets. The frame constructed shacks were one-story tall and have gable roofs and rectangular floor plans.

IV

A Brief History of the Resettlement Administration Rehabilitation Farmstead Program in Scotts Bluff County

INTRODUCTION

Scotts Bluff County is home to a relatively rare complex of buildings known as the "Resettlement Farmstead" by local residents. This complex of twenty-two farmstead units (SF00-49), including houses, barn/garages, chicken coops and outbuildings, is located a few miles northwest of the city of Scottsbluff at the southwest and northeast corners of the intersection of State Highway 26 and County Road 19. Constructed in the mid-1930s as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs, the farmsteads were built with federal and state relief funds which were administered first by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and then transferred to the Resettlement Administration. They were intended to provide financial security, housing, and self-sufficiency to needy families during the Great Depression, and have provided comfortable, durable homes to their subsequent owners up to the present.



Scotts Bluff County, Resettlement Administration
Farmstead Location

HISTORY OF THE RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION

REHABILITATION FARMSTEAD PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES

The Great Depression was a period of United States history characterized by economic hardship. President Franklin D. Roosevelt sought to steer the country out of financial despair with legislative acts and the establishment of federal relief agencies. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), which originated after the Emergency Relief Act of 1933, allocated money to individual states for distribution. In the spring of 1934, under the authority of FERA, the Rural Rehabilitation Program was established with the goal of aiding rural families suffering from the effects of drought and economic hardship. The program received financial and technical assistance from various agencies such as the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation, the Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Land Policy Section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. In 1934 FERA established 22 rural communities and villages with approximately 1,799 units in Alabama, Arkansas, South Dakota, Texas, South and North Carolina, New Mexico, Georgia, and Nebraska. The largest rural community was located in Halifax County, North Carolina with 294 units and the smallest were in Richardson, Hall, and Buffalo counties, Nebraska with ten units.²⁴

The Resettlement Administration, formed by Executive Order No. 7027 on May 1, 1935, assumed responsibilities held by other relief agencies, by financially assisting impoverished rural communities throughout the United States. The Emergency Relief Act of 1935 supported the agency economically. A number of prominent relief programs fell under the direction of the Resettlement Administration including the Rural Rehabilitation Division and the Land Program of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the Division of the Subsistence Homesteads of the Department of the Interior, and the Land Policy Section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Under the direction of Rexford G. Tugwell, the Resettlement Administration's three main goals included reestablishing urban and rural families in productive lifestyles,

24. Paul K. Conkin, *Tomorrow a New World: The New Deal Community Program* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1959; New York: DaCapo Press, 1976), 131, 334-335; Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935) ii, 4-5.

preserving the soil, and providing monetary, scientific, and mechanical aid to farmers.²⁵

RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION REHABILITATION FARMSTEAD PROGRAM IN NEBRASKA

In the state of Nebraska, the Rural Rehabilitation Program was nurtured by the University of Nebraska. The Nebraska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, a financial board, was established to assist in the monetary activities of the Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration (NERA). NERA supervised four relief divisions, one of which included the Rural Rehabilitation Division. A state director, appointed by the agency's administrator, managed the rural rehabilitation division. Activities were separated into nine districts each with a representative appointed by the state director. In the tiered system, the nine districts were again separated into territories comprised of one to three counties. In turn, the territories were supervised by a manager.²⁶

The Rural Rehabilitation Division directed six specific duties in the state of Nebraska including: the Rural Rehabilitation Farmsteads, Individual Family Rehabilitation, Cattle Processing, Drought Relief for Livestock, Feed Purchase and Distribution, and Relief Gardens. Families that qualified for benefits offered by the state rural relief programs were divided into two groups: those living on farms, but not able to retain their current existence; and farm families that had relocated to urban settings.²⁷

In 1935, Nebraska received \$517,00.00 more in relief aid than it paid to the U.S. Treasury Department. Not only was the state hurt by the economic depression, but it also experienced natural disasters such as dust storms and grasshoppers. During this year, approximately 125,000 Nebraskan families attempted to make a living by working the land and about five percent of these families received feed supplements for

25. Murray R. Benedict, *Farm Policies of the United States 1790-1950: A Study of Their Origins and Development* (New York: The Twentieth Century Fund, 1953), 324-325; Murray R. Benedict, *Can We Solve the Farm Problem? An Analysis of Federal Aid to Agriculture* (New York: The Twentieth Century Fund, 1955), 184.

26. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), ii, 3-5.

27. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 6.

their animals and eight percent received personal aid. Based upon the figures, approximately eight to twelve percent of families in Nebraska were eligible for rehabilitation assistance.²⁸ In order to assist several of these farm families, the Rural Rehabilitation Farmstead Project was initiated. The premise for its origin was the relocation of families to small plots for production of fruits and vegetables. By setting up small farming plots, it was reasoned, the program could help a greater number of families.²⁹

Before choosing the land to support the new farmstead program, soil was collected throughout the state of Nebraska and analyzed for quality. Agencies and institutions that assisted in this process were the Extension Service, the College of Agriculture, the Agronomy and Soil Survey and Water Conservation Departments of the University of Nebraska. Besides soil type, three additional conditions were considered for the selection of sites for the rural rehabilitation projects. First, an area needed to have a history in agriculture, as well as a large number of families eligible for relief. Second, the area needed to have an adequate water supply, whether it be rainfall or irrigation. The third, and final consideration, was the access to markets for the produced goods.³⁰

Following the results of the soil types and land analysis based upon the criteria established for farmsteads, eight rural rehabilitation farmstead project areas were selected on available land in Nebraska near the following cities: Kearney, Fairbury, Grand Island, Falls City, Loup City, South Sioux City, Scottsbluff, and Omaha. By 1935, the state purchased a total of 1,568 acres throughout Nebraska for \$149,764.80 to support the project. The Omaha area project was the state's largest effort, with 799 acres and 100 units, whereas, the project in Kearney only utilized 57 acres and eight units. Individual farmsteads ranged in size from seven to sixteen acres.³¹

The building styles used for the Resettlement Farmsteads in Nebraska were based on standardized plans which were used on farmsteads nation-wide. The houses

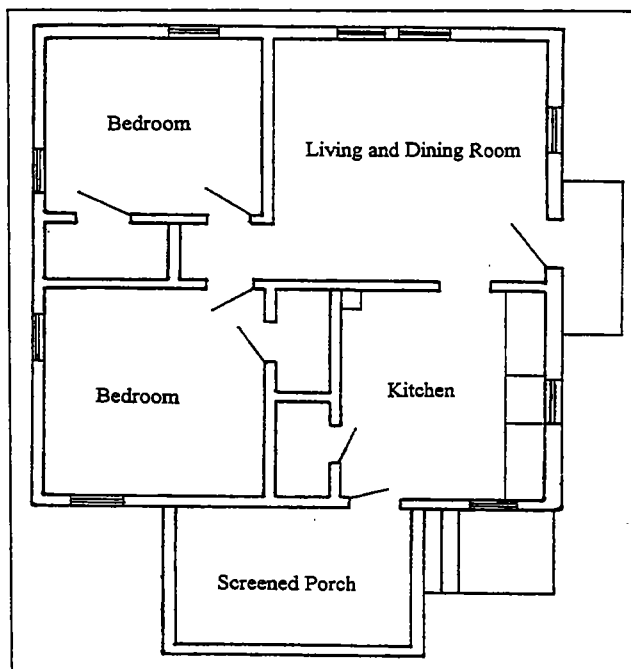
28. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 2; Melvyn Dubofsky and Stephen Burwood, ed., *Agriculture During the Great Depression* (New York: The Garland Publishing, Inc., 1990), 138, 140-142.

29. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 6-7.

30. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 7, 8.

31. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 7-8.

erected on each farmstead plot displayed simple designs. Variations were limited to the placement of porches, pitch of roof lines, and arrangement of buildings on the individual farmsteads.³² Three standard house plans were utilized to accommodate a range of family sizes. The smallest plan, which measured 24' x 26', displayed a combined living and dining room, a kitchen, two bedrooms, and an 8' x 12' screened porch. A plan, which was 24' by 32', was larger than the above plan because it also

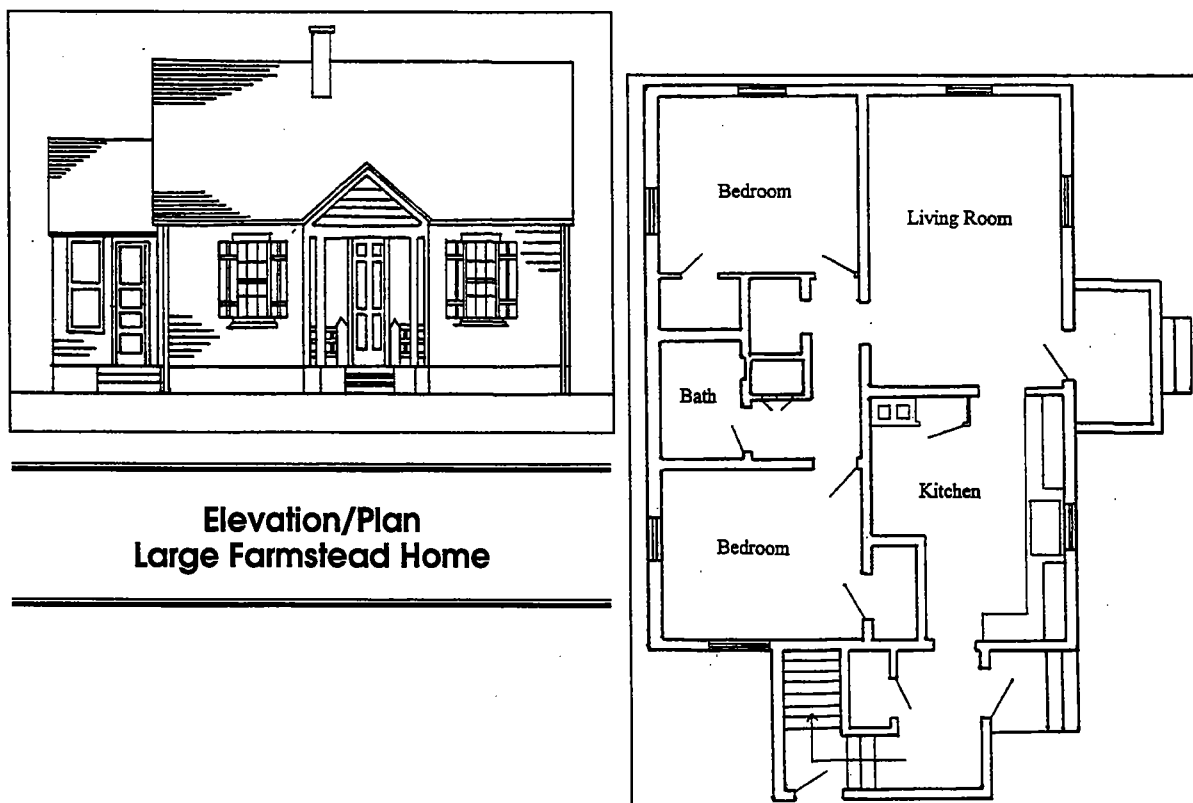


**Elevation/Plan
Small Farmstead Home**

32. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 9-10.

included space for a bathroom. The third plan differed from the other two plans as a result of a stairway which provided access to two bedrooms located on the second floor.³³

Architectural trends in the state of Nebraska and practical needs dictated the construction styles for buildings erected for the Rural Rehabilitation Farmstead Project. In an attempt to defray potential resentment from the surrounding rural community, authorities were conscientious not to incorporate amenities in the new houses that were not found in the homes of nearby neighbors, such as indoor plumbing. Further, it was also hoped that the farmstead occupants would aspire to better conditions and plan for future updating of the facilities. Floor plans for the house and placement of the outbuildings which expedited daily duties were also taken into consideration prior to construction. After the Work Division received the authority to construct the farmsteads, the Rehabilitation Division supplied the architectural plans and materials; a system that encouraged relief recipients to supply the labor.³⁴



**Elevation/Plan
Large Farmstead Home**

33. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 9-10.

34. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 9, 11.

A 1935 Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska, described the farmstead houses:³⁵

The foundation walls are of concrete. The superstructure is of the standard frame construction. The outside walls consist of 2" x 4" studs, shiplap sheathing, a layer of building paper and red cedar lap siding. The inside finish usually consists of lath and plaster...Rough flooring and 13/16" oak finish floor is used. The roofs are shingled with red cedar. The exterior finish is of white pine, the interior of square edge Douglas fir, stained and varnished to match the floors. All of the houses are completely wired for electricity.

Each farmstead unit was allotted a barn/garage and chicken coop. The barn/garage, which displayed frame construction and a concrete floor, had space for two cows, a vehicle, and feed. The chicken coop, which also displayed frame construction, measured 16' x 12' and was designed by the University of Nebraska, College of Agriculture. Drinking water was provided by wells with "force head pumps" located near the kitchen door of each unit.³⁶

Families selected to occupy the Rural Rehabilitation Farmstead needed to meet several criteria. First, the family must have been on the relief rolls of the county where the project was constructed. Second, the head of the household had to be between 35 and 50 years. Third, the family size needed to range from four to six persons. Once a family submitted an application, it was scrutinized by three different groups comprised of the Relief Division, a local selection board, and a representative of the Rural Rehabilitation division.³⁷

The chosen families were provided a one year lease for a token fee. Stipulation for the possession of the unit was contingent upon the ability of the applicant to abide by the farming plan established for the unit. A one year probation period existed, and thereafter the family was eligible to purchase the farmstead on a long-term payment plan.³⁸

35. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 10-11.

36. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 10.

37. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 11-12.

38. Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 12.

RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION REHABILITATION FARMSTEAD PROGRAM IN SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY

In Scotts Bluff County, the rural rehabilitation farmstead project purchased 160 acres for \$22,400.00 to provide for 22 units. The Scottsbluff Farmstead existed as the second largest rehabilitation farmstead project in the state of Nebraska. Approximately 40 people, listed on the relief rolls, were hired as construction crews to build the farmstead project located to the northwest of Scottsbluff. In April 1935, Harry F. Dole and W.S. Wimberly, representatives for the Nebraska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, initiated plans for the 160-acre farmstead project. The Simmons Gravel Company provided the gravel to be used in the construction of basements and roads in the farmstead area. The Enterprise Irrigation Ditch Company provided water access to the Scottsbluff project.³⁹

In the spring of 1935, before the construction of the farmstead homes, the state tax commissioner and the Nebraska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation agreed that the subsistence farm occupants would be taxed. It was hoped that the tax revenues paid by the farmstead families would support the school districts affected by the increase of students coming from the farmsteads.⁴⁰

F. M. Merritt worked as the district superintendent of construction for the Nebraska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation and assisted with the farmstead project in Scotts Bluff County. On May 15, 1935, the community building (not extant), erected first to house the tools and supplies, was finished and measured 24 by 72 feet. Next, the outbuildings which consisted of chicken coops and barn/garages were constructed. The last phase consisted of the erection of the primary houses. The layout of the completed units erected in the Scottsbluff Farmstead roughly formed an H-shaped plan.⁴¹

Each farmstead unit in Scotts Bluff County possessed two bedrooms, a kitchen, a joint living and dining room, a front porch and a screened in back porch. The main

39. "Relief Workers Will be Assigned to Erect Homes on Farm Tract," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald* 11 April 1935; "Tractor Operator at Farmstead Project to Have Very Busy Time," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald* 10 May 1935; Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, *A Study of the Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Emergency Relief Administration, 1935), 8.

40. "Subsistence Project Will Pay State Taxes," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald* 12 April 1935.

41. "Work Soon to Start on Building 22 Homes on Farmstead Lands," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald* 26 April 1935; "Central Building at Farmstead Complete," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald* 15 May 1935.

houses displayed steeply pitched gabled roofs and austere facades. The roofs' edges abutted the front and rear elevations, thus, showing only a slight eave. This feature came to be commonly found on residential buildings constructed in the late 1940s and early 1950s. A combination barn/garage, as well as chicken coops accompanied each unit measuring approximately eight acres. In total, the construction crews in Scotts Bluff County built 22 homes, which measured 24 by 32 feet; 22 barn/garages, which measured 18 by 24 feet; 22 chicken coops, which measured 12 by 16 feet; 22 private water systems; and several community buildings, including a large barn.⁴²

On July 2, 1935, following a lottery at the Scotts Bluff County Courthouse, L.H. Rock, district rehabilitation supervisor, declared fourteen names of families to be the first farmstead candidates. The families of O.H. Ward, the field foreman at the farmstead project, and Roy Sherman were the first groups to reside in the new homes. Other families chosen to live on the project included Eli Snyder, Glen Knapton, Clarence Catlett, Floyd Cate, Nels McKee, George Bartlett, Clarence York, Joe Carmichael, W.J. Scharton, Eldon White, and G.A. Eckberg and families. These farmstead residents, with an average annual income of \$492.00, were initially allowed 33 years in which to pay for their tracts, which cost about \$3,000.00.⁴³

TERMINATION OF THE FARMSTEAD REHABILITATION PROJECT

In the fall of 1937, the Resettlement Administration was renamed the Farm Security Administration and oversaw many of the programs initiated by the Resettlement Administration until the passage of the Farmers Home Administration Act of 1946. The act provided that, "all labor supply centers, labor homes, labor camps and facilities formerly under the supervision of the Farm Security Administration or transferred to the War Food Administrator were to be liquidated."⁴⁴ As a result of the government's need to dispose of the units quickly, it lost money on the sale of the rural projects. In the sale of 7,276 of the 8,945 rural units, the government received approximately fifty percent of the invested value. By 1948, the government found buyers for the remaining units associated with the Resettlement Administration. Two years later, the 1950 Act (64 Stat. 98), reinforced the liquidation procedures and required

42. "Erection of New Homes to Start," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald* 1 May 1935; "Relief Workers will be Assigned to Erect Homes on Farm Tract," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald* 11 April 1935.

43. Discrepancy exists regarding the cost of the each unit and the number of acres. While *Settlement News* reported 17 acres per unit at a cost of \$7,790.00 per unit, *A Study of Rural Rehabilitation Programs in Nebraska* reported that each unit measured approximately 7 acres and the *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald* claimed that each unit was worth \$3,000.00. "14 Farm Families Named for Farm Project," *Scottsbluff Daily Star-Herald* 3 July 1935; Paul Jordan, *Settlement News* Lincoln, NE: Information Division.

44. Murray R. Benedict, *Can We Solve the Farm Problem? An Analysis of Federal Aid to Agriculture* (New York: The Twentieth Century Fund, 1955), 199, 200.

that the unused funds of state rural rehabilitation corporations be transferred for individual states' use.⁴⁵

Under congressional pressure to liquidate the units, they were sold whenever possible at fair market value to low-income families who met certain governmental standards. However, none were sold to people who had higher debts than assets and as a result, many of the original homesteaders who had anxiously anticipated the opportunity to purchase their farmsteads did not qualify and the farmsteads were sold to other candidates.⁴⁶

The post-Resettlement Administration ownership of the individual units located at the Scottsbluff project is uncertain. The government disposal of the units was not a high profile news item in the area, and records about the eventual transfer of the farmstead properties is not readily available. These questions may be more thoroughly investigated through further research at the National Archives, where records of the transfer of properties will likely be filed.

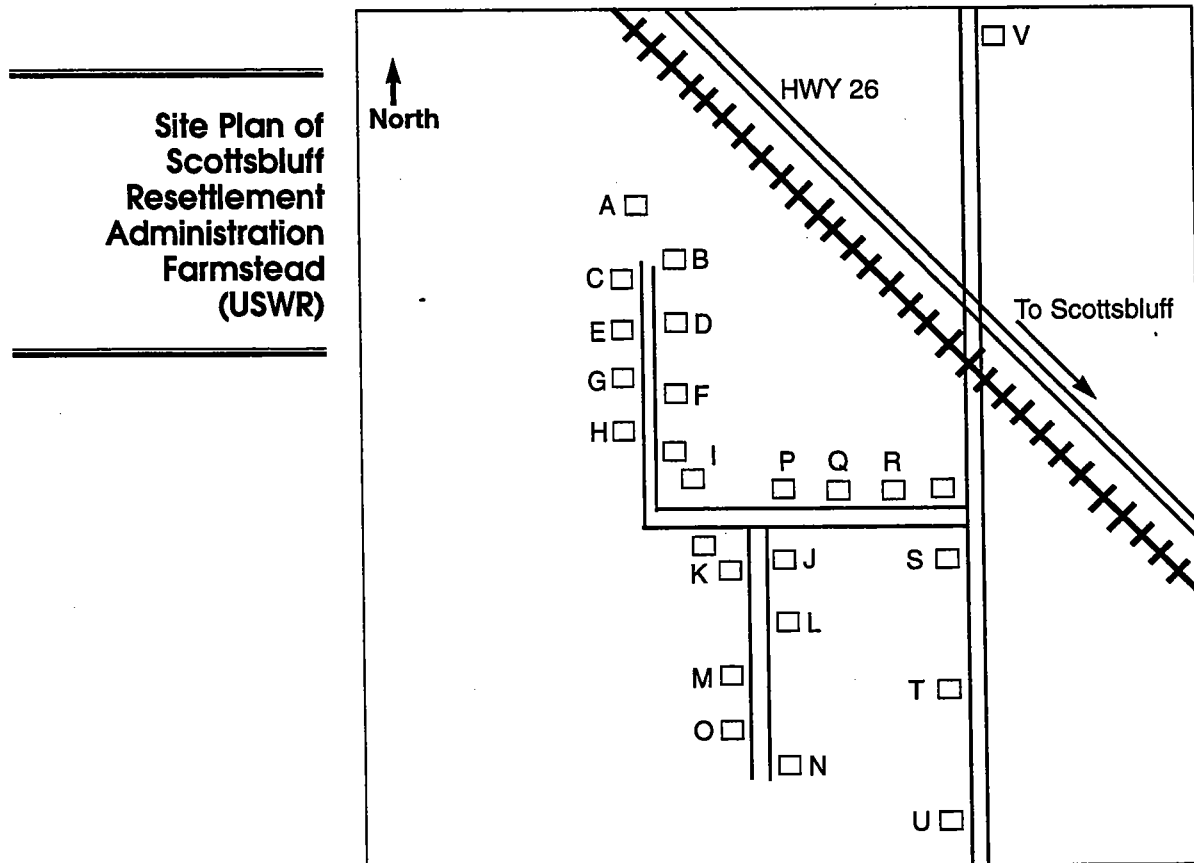
SURVEY RESULTS OF RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION REHABILITATION FARMSTEAD PROJECT, SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY

Relief programs in Nebraska had a lasting influence in Scotts Bluff County. A total of 22 houses with related barn/garages and chicken coops, as well two dairy barns were identified in the survey of the Rehabilitation Farmstead project in Scotts Bluff County. The development is located to the northwest of the city of Scottsbluff and southwest of Highway 26 in the NE 1/4, NE 1/4 of Section 29, Township 22 North, Range 55 West.

The original layout of the farmstead units in relation to one another has remained intact to the present, however, a number of alterations to the buildings themselves has occurred throughout the years. Of the original twenty-two houses, only eight have remained fairly intact, with original siding materials, and minimal architectural additions. Houses which have not remained intact vary in the level and types of alterations. Some have been minimally altered with the application of vinyl or asbestos shingle siding over the original weatherboard. Others have been severely altered, with the addition of numerous wings, attached garages, replaced windows such as casements or sliding windows, and a variety of siding materials, including

45. Murray R. Benedict, *Can We Solve the Farm Problem? An Analysis of Federal Aid to Agriculture* (New York: The Twentieth Century Fund, 1955), 185, 196, 200; Paul K. Conkin, *Tomorrow a New World: The New Deal Community Program* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1959; New York: DaCapo Press, 1976), 230-231.

46. Paul K. Conkin, *Tomorrow a New World: The New Deal Community Program* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1959; New York: Da Capo Press, 1976), 229-230.



wood shingles, permastone, asbestos shingles and vinyl siding. Despite alterations from minor to severe, nearly all of the houses are recognizable due to the form of the original house. Roof pitches, eave overhangs, window and door placement, and porches are all clues to the original house underneath the altered exteriors.

While many of the houses have been altered, most of the outbuildings have remained more intact overall. Outbuildings included garages, which were used as barn/garages. Of the twenty-two barn/garages which probably originally existed, nineteen (19) remain extant. Thirteen (13) chicken coops remain, sixteen (16) sheds, and one (1) outhouse also remain extant. All outbuildings retain their original form, though some of the garages have been modified with modern garage doors and a few have wing additions attached. At nearly all of the units, the Rehabilitation Farmstead design outbuildings are interspersed among non-Farmstead outbuildings, such as other garages and sheds which do not appear to follow the standardized plans of the Resettlement Administration.

North of State Highway 26 exists the farmstead unit which was apparently built to oversee the operation of the co-operative dairy. Two extant dairy barns and one house (SF00-49[V]) remain extant with a number of other buildings, most of which

do not appear to be of Resettlement Administration design. The integrity of the barns appears to be very good, with siding material intact.

Overall, the integrity of plan and design of the Scottsbluff Rehabilitation Farmstead Project area is good, despite modifications and alterations made to individual buildings. The proximity of the units to one another give the visitor a feel for the spatial intent of the Rehabilitation Farmstead Project, which included a co-operative atmosphere between neighbors. Though a more detailed intensive inventory of other Rehabilitation Farmstead Project areas in Nebraska will be needed to definitively decide the comparative integrity of the Scottsbluff project, preliminary investigation indicates that Scottsbluff may have the most intact Rehabilitation Farmstead project area in the state, and its future preservation should reflect that information.

V

Historic Contexts

INTRODUCTION

This chapter defines each of the historic contexts identified in Scotts Bluff County with its associated National Register eligible properties. The outline of historic contexts, which relates to the state of Nebraska, was developed by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office. The Preface of *Historic Context in Nebraska Topical Listing* (NeSHPO, 1990) states:

The basis of the plan is the Historic Context, which describes one or more aspects of the historic development of the state, and groups related properties so that they can be identified, evaluated, registered and protected according to priorities established by the plan. This Topical Listing of historic context in Nebraska is intended to represent a comprehensive summary of all aspects of the history of the state, with particular emphasis on those aspects which are manifest in buildings, sites, structures, districts, and objects fixed in the environment.

Each historic context section contains a brief definition of the context in relation to Scotts Bluff County, as well as includes photograph(s), site numbers, and descriptions of associated properties. Developed contexts in this section highlight architectural trends in the county. The text is substantiated with properties that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

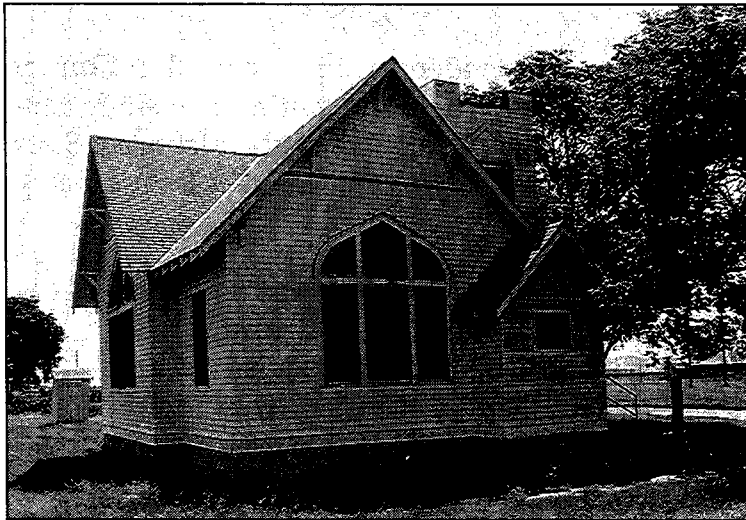
HISTORIC CONTEXT: RELIGION

Religion refers to the cultural system of worship related to a deity. Beliefs, organizations, and social aspect serves as considerations related to this context. Subtopics display divisions between religious faiths, as well as ethnic groups. Property types associated with this context include places of worship, shrines, funerary materials, and religious dwellings.

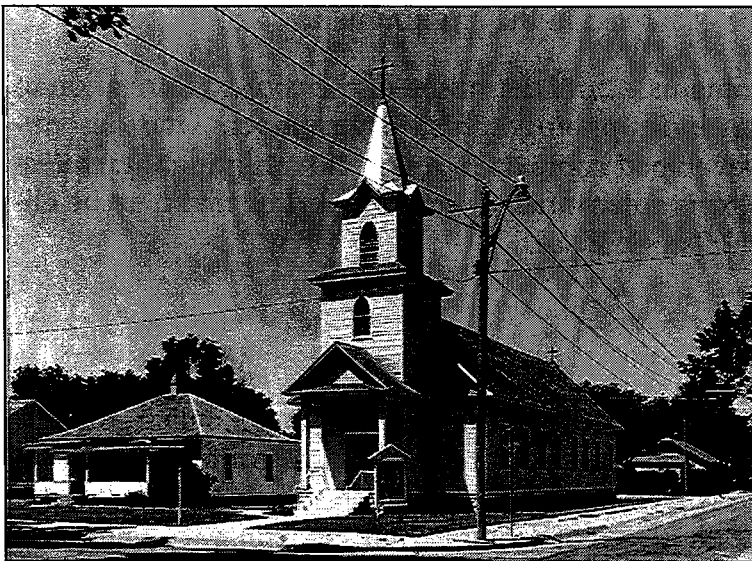
It is interesting to note that no rural churches which met NeHBS inventory criteria were identified during the architectural inventory of Scotts Bluff County. All representative churches were either located in the villages or in the cities of Scottsbluff or Gering. Most churches identified were typically vernacular form, frame and brick construction and small in scale. They were most often rectangular plans with front steeples, and symmetrical facades. Only a few churches display features associated with high style architecture, such as lancet windows, brick construction, stepped

roofline, and stone sills. Virtually all churches identified appear to have been constructed after 1900.

Four churches in Scotts Bluff County maybe eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



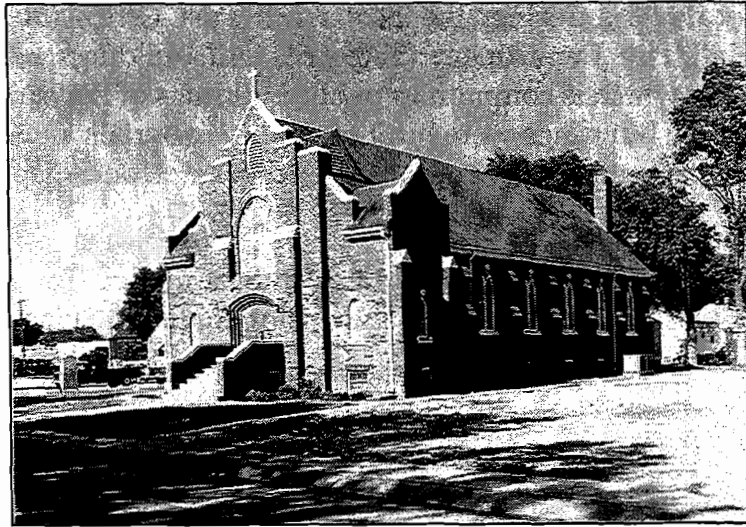
SF05-006
McGrew Community
Church
Gable T
ca. 1910
McGrew, Nebraska



SF11-182
Calvary Baptist Church
Front Gable
ca. 1910
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

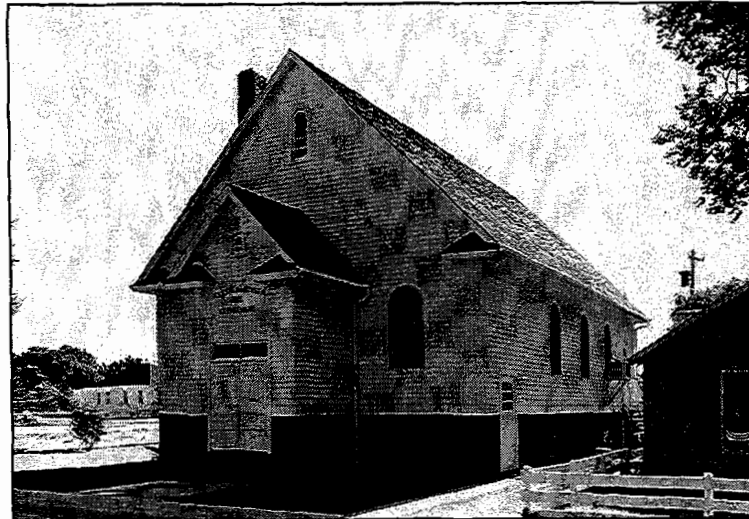
SF11-187

St. James Lutheran Church
Gothic Revival Style
Influence
ca. 1925
Scottsbluff, Nebraska



SF11-190

Iglesia Batista Del
Gethsemane
Front Gable
ca. 1910
Scottsbluff, Nebraska



HISTORIC CONTEXT: GOVERNMENT

Government refers to a process of ruling through an organization, political machine, agency, or individual. Governmental jurisdiction is divided between local, state, and national. This system, which is often limited by spatial and constitutional boundaries, enacts legislation and enforces law. Properties associated with the historic context of Government are federal, state, and local offices, courthouses, post offices, fire and police stations, libraries, military buildings, battlefields, and penal complexes.

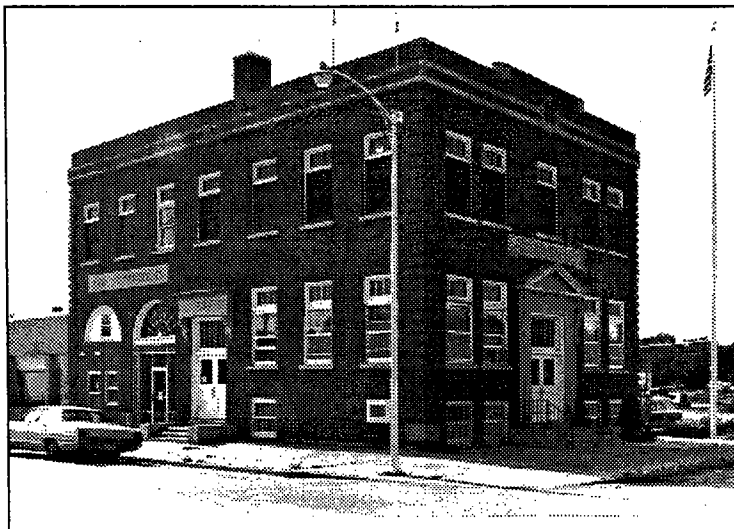
The reconnaissance survey of Scotts Bluff County identified several properties associated with this historic context. The most obvious examples of Government-related buildings in the county are the Scotts Bluff County Courthouse (SF01-003),

located in Gering, the Scottsbluff Post Office (SF11-151), and the Mitchell City Hall/Fire Department (SF09-066). All buildings reflect the Neo-Classical Revival style which is common in public buildings of the early twentieth century. In general, public buildings were built of quality materials and style. In Scotts Bluff County, all public buildings were constructed of brick and display high style architectural features.

Three government buildings in Scotts Bluff County may be eligible for or have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



SF01-003
Scotts Bluff County
Courthouse
Neo-Classical Revival Style
1920-1921
Gering, Nebraska
Listed on National Register,
1990



SF09-066
Mitchell City Hall/Fire
Department
Neo-Classical Revival Style
Influence
ca. 1920
Mitchell, Nebraska

SF11-151

Scottsbluff Post Office
Renaissance Revival Style
1930-1931
Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Listed on National Register,
1989



HISTORIC CONTEXT: EDUCATION

Education refers to the process of transferring knowledge, skills, or characters to a recipient. Enrichment of a pupil can occur with exposure to schools, libraries, museums, and observatories. Properties associated to this historic context include educational properties such as private and public schools, vocational schools, colleges and universities, and specialized schools.

The reconnaissance survey of Scotts Bluff County identified a number of rural and urban schools that can be associated with education in the county. The rural schools in design are typically frame construction with a gable roof and vernacular form. The rural schools are smaller than their urban counterparts. The survey identified elementary, middle, and high schools in the urban areas of the county. The urban schools are usually brick buildings with more than one level in the middle and high schools. The urban schools typically were architect designed and thus represent architectural styles that are reflective of their period of construction.

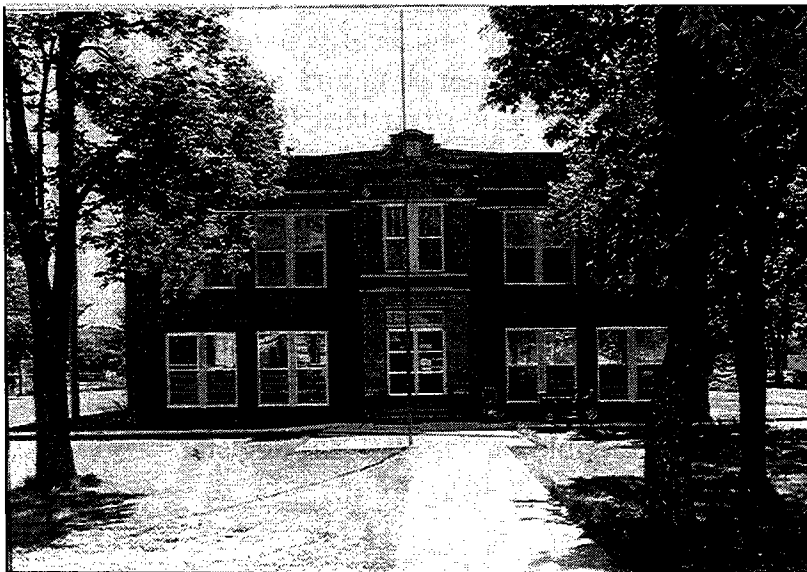
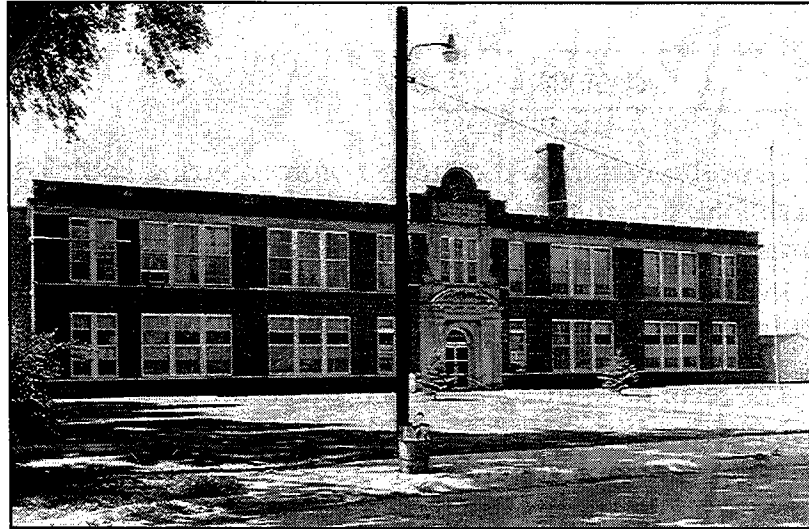
It is interesting to note that a few of the urban schools (City School, SF11-183) reflect the Art Moderne style of the 1930s, with streamlined, rounded corners and decorative concrete relief sculptures in the walls. Otherwise, urban schools in Scottsbluff and Gering, as well as those several in the smaller towns reflect the Neo-Classical Revival style, a common style for educational buildings in the country in the 1920s and 30s.

The following schools are potentially eligible for the National Register.



SF00-280
Victory School
Neo-Classical
Revival Style
ca. 1925
Scotts Bluff
County (Rural),
Nebraska

SF04-007
Lyman High School
Neo-Classical Revival
Style
ca. 1920
Lyman, Nebraska



SF04-009
Lyman Public School
Neo-Classical Revival
Style
ca. 1920
Lyman, Nebraska

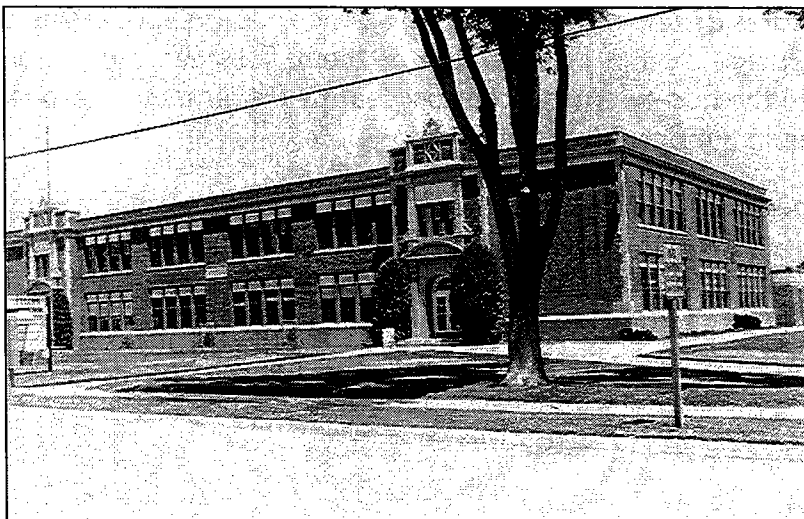
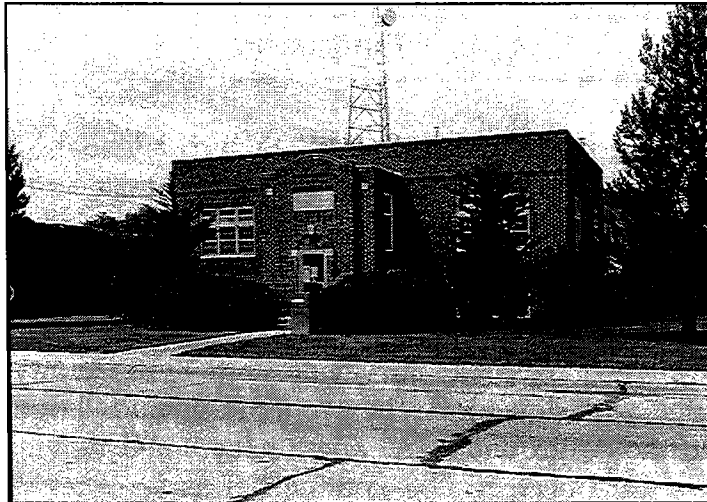
SF05-001

McGrew School
Vernacular w/ Moderne
Style Influence
ca. 1940
McGrew



SF10-025

Morrill Public Library
Vernacular w/Moderne
and Neo-Classical
Revival Style Influence
ca. 1935
Morrill, Nebraska



SF09-008

Mitchell High School
Neo-Classical Revival
Style
ca. 1925
Mitchell, Nebraska



SF11-010

Scottsbluff Carnegie Library
Neo-Classical Revival Style
1921-1922, addition 1936
Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Listed on National Register,
1989

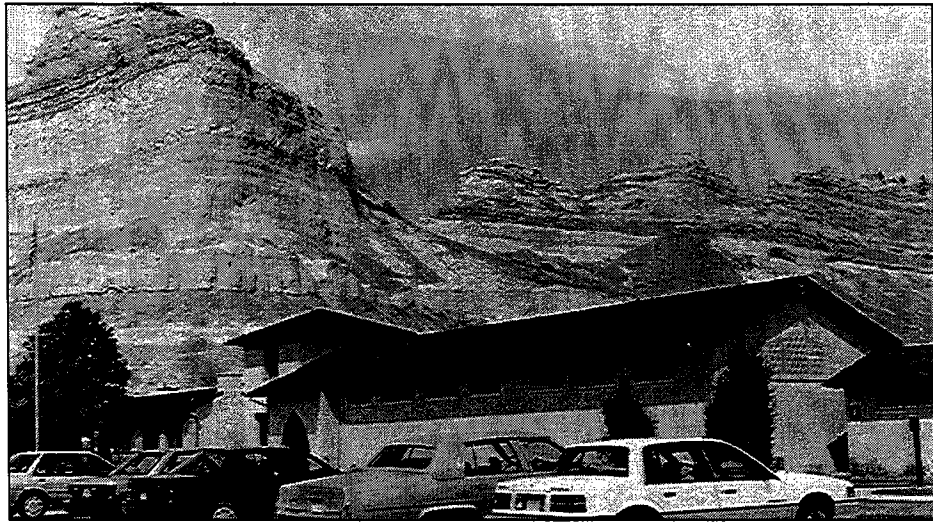
HISTORIC CONTEXT: DIVERSION

A diversion is defined as "that which relaxes and amuses." The historic context of diversion thus includes sports, games, fairs and expositions, travel and tourism, leisure and recreation, and entertainment. Properties associated with Diversion include entertainment centers such as opera houses, movie theaters, museums, and dance halls, nature centers, athletic facilities, and recreational facilities.

The reconnaissance survey of Scotts Bluff County identified many properties associated with diversion. The properties included opera houses, movie theaters, parks, and the fairgrounds. The opera houses and movie theaters, often of brick construction, were located in the commercial center of towns. The opera houses dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were strong recreational centers of the urban areas. As motion pictures developed and became a modern recreational diversion, buildings were constructed for the presentation of them. The two movie theaters in the survey, dating to the mid-twentieth century, features prominent marquee neon signs that have retained significant integrity.

Specific examples of properties depicting the historic context Diversion include the Scottsbluff Opera House, the movie theaters of Scottsbluff and Mitchell, the county fairgrounds in Mitchell, parks in all the cities and villages, as well as Scotts Bluff National Monument, Wildcat Hills Recreational Area and Lake Minatare Recreational Area. The three areas were recipients of substantial improvements through various New Deal Programs in the 1930s.

SF00-035
Scotts Bluff
National
Monument
Scotts Bluff
County (Rural),
Nebraska
Listed on
National
Register, 1966



SF00-038
Lake Minatare Lighthouse
Lake Minatare Recreation Area
Scotts Bluff County (Rural)

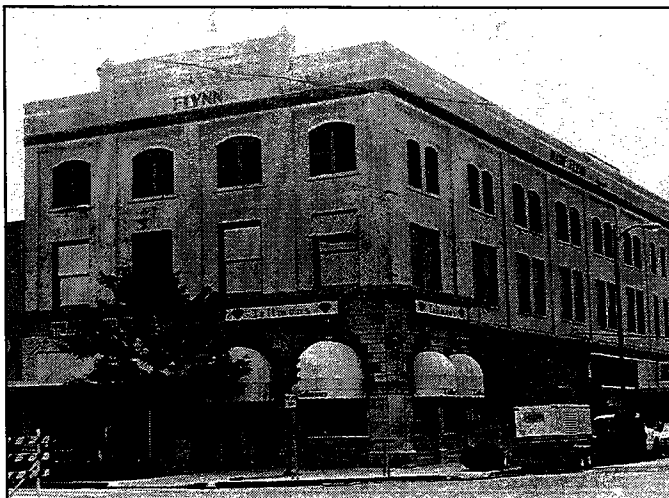
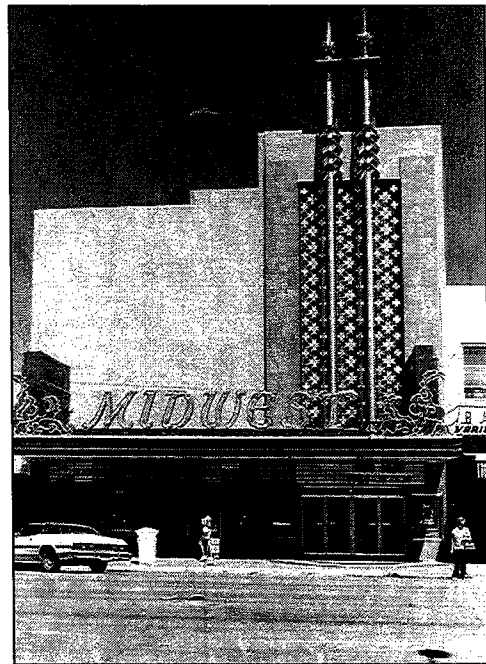
SF00-252
Wildcat Hills
State
Recreation
Area
Scotts Bluff
County (Rural),
Nebraska





SF09-053
Nile Theater
Modern
ca. 1931
Mitchell, Nebraska

SF11-110
Midwest Theatre
Modern
ca. 1931
Scottsbluff, Nebraska



SF11-205
Marquis Opera House
Vernacular w/ Neo-
Classical Influence
1909-1910, remodeled 1916
Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Listed on National Register,
1985

HISTORIC CONTEXT: AGRICULTURE

Agriculture refers to the production of crops and livestock. Property types associated with Agriculture include farmsteads and ranches, general farming structures, specialized farms and ranch facilities, and irrigation.⁴⁷

The typical farmhouses which were identified associated with farming complexes were almost exclusively wood frame with horizontal weatherboard siding. Some examples had stucco siding, which appears to have been added at a later date. Brick construction in farmhouses was almost completely absent. Typically, farmhouses were vernacular in form. The earliest, settlement period houses were often one story, side gabled, front gabled, gabled ell, or variations on these forms. Occasionally they were as large as one-and-one-half and two stories tall. Second generation houses were often larger in scale, yet still vernacular in form. Several gabled examples, as well as one and two story cubes exist in the county. Very few high style farm houses were identified, however, most commonly when they were, they were variations on the popular 1920s Bungalow style, with wide-open porches, low pitched gabled roofs, and shingled gable ends.

In regard to outbuildings, many farmsteads retained original frame barns with horizontal weatherboard siding to match the main house. Many farmsteads erected after the advent of the automobile also have garages which are contemporary with the main house. To add uniformity to a farmstead site, features such as a clipped roof, half-timbering, types of materials, and even paint color seen on the main house were utilized on a number of the outbuildings. To accommodate modern equipment and farming methods the original plan of many farmsteads has been changed by the erection of modern pole sheds and machine buildings.

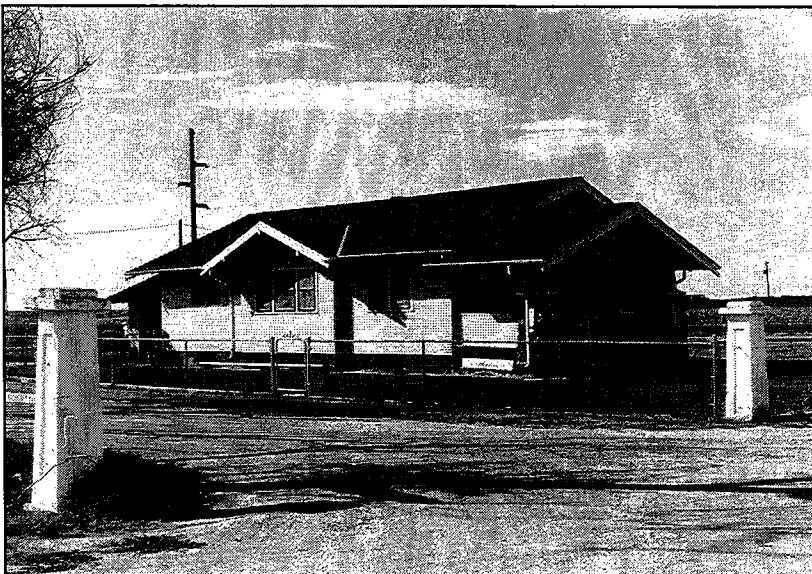
Eight Agriculture related properties surveyed in Scotts Bluff County maybe eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, including the entire Resettlement Farmstead Project area.

47. In relation to agriculture in the area, the historic context entitled, "Scotts Bluff Livestock, Cash Grain and Root Crop Production (08.10)" was developed by the NeSHPO.



SF00-051
Gering Irrigation
Canal
ca. 1915
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska

SF00-289
Canal Dam/Gate
ca. 1915
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska



SF00-105
Lippincott Farm
Bungalow Style
ca. 1925
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska

SF00-112
Sod House
Gable Ell
ca. 1900
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska

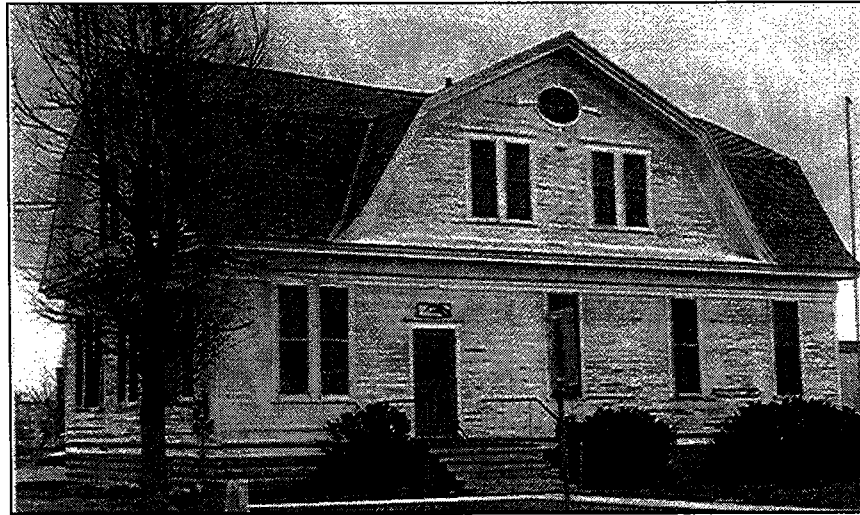


SF00-195
Sears House
Gable
ca. 1915
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska

SF00-272
Stone House
One-Story Cube
ca. 1910
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska



SF11-437
Tri-State Land
Company
Cross Gambrel
ca. 1900
Scottsbluff,
Nebraska

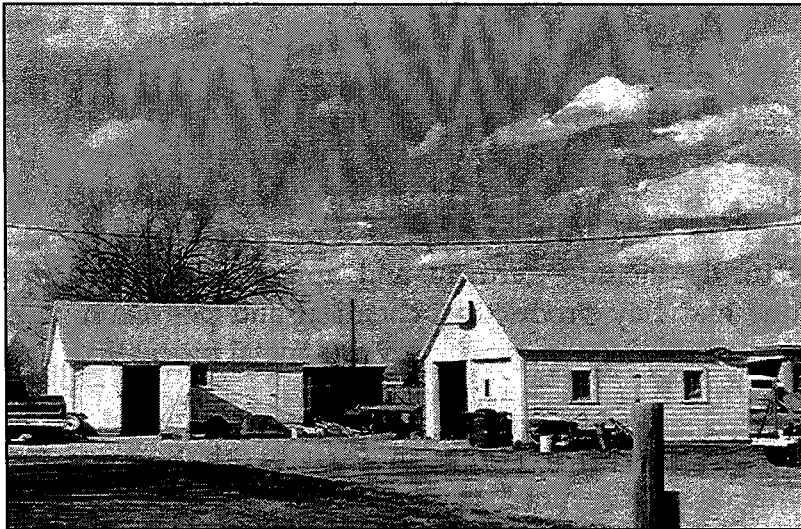


RESETTLEMENT FARMSTEADS

The entire site associated with the Resettlement Administration Farmstead Project may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a district. The following photographs illustrate five buildings within the farmstead project area.

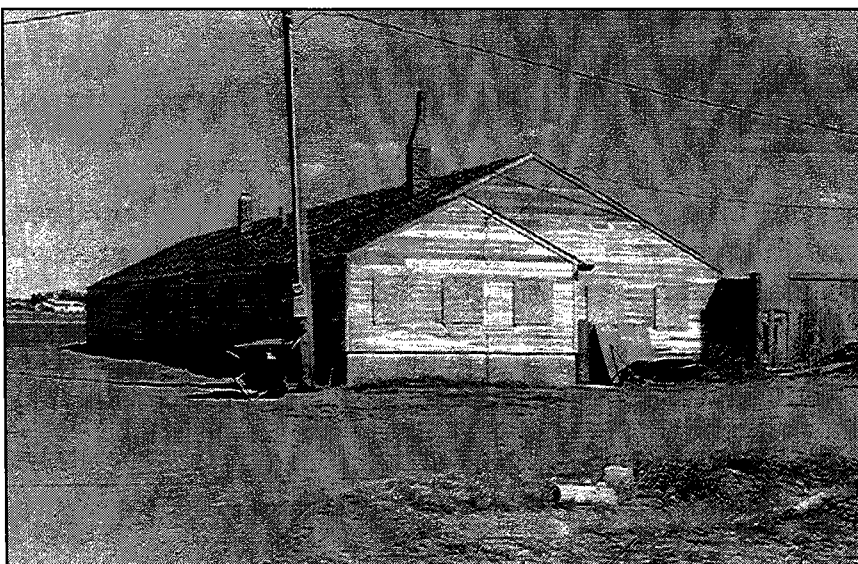


SF00-049Q
Main House
1935
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska



SF00-049Q
Outbuildings
1935
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska

SF00-049R
Main House
1935
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska

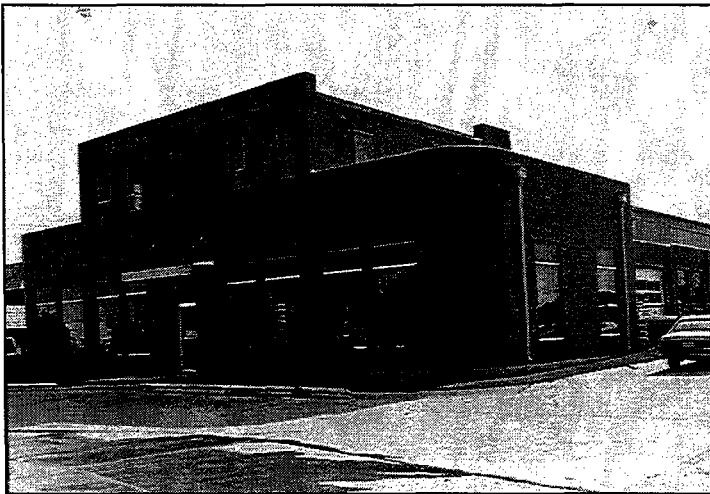


SF00-049V
Dairy Barn
1935
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska

HISTORIC CONTEXT: MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing refers to the production of goods from raw materials, which are often made by machinery and in large quantities. Property types associated with the historic context of Manufacturing include garment and apparel manufacturing, wood production, glass, stone and clay production, chemical and petroleum processing, transportation equipment production, machinery and metal processing, and cottage industries.

The survey identified a small number of properties associated with the context of manufacturing, of which one was determined to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is an Art Moderne style one-story brick building, with streamlined curved front and an aluminum awning.



SF01-106
Nebraska Machinery
Company
Art Moderne
ca. 1940
Gering, Nebraska

HISTORIC CONTEXT: PROCESSING

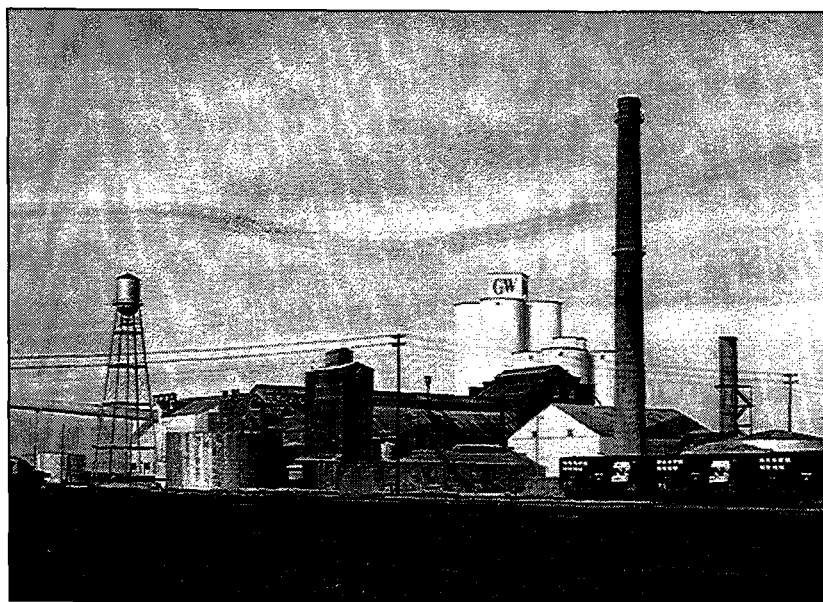
Processing refers to a specific preparation regime utilized to reach a final product. Property types associated with Processing include food processing, tobacco processing, textile and leather processing, and the construction industry.⁴⁸

The Scotts Bluff County survey identified a substantial number of buildings associated with the sugar beet industry. The sugar beet factories, which were constructed

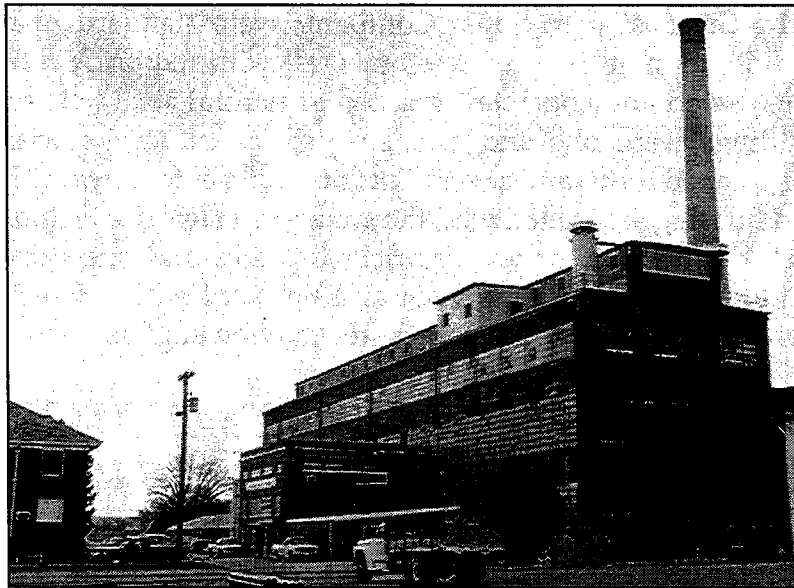
48. In regards to Scotts Bluff County specific consideration is extended to the subtopic entitled "Sugar Beet Industry in Nebraska" (11.06).

in Scotts Bluff County by the Great Western Sugar Company, were standard plan brick buildings. They were utilitarian in form, three stories tall with red brick construction. They had flat roofs, wood and concrete trim, and structural steel frames. Administrative related buildings were one and two story brick buildings with poured concrete foundations, hipped roofs, and several interior built-in features such as cabinets and safes. Related housing associated with the sugar beet factories included U-shaped two-story brick dormitories, one-story brick duplexes and one-story brick triplexes, and a variety of wood frame supervisor and worker housing which was related to the bungalow style. The following complexes may be eligible for the National Register.

SF00-003
Scottsbluff Great
Western Sugar
Factory
1910
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska

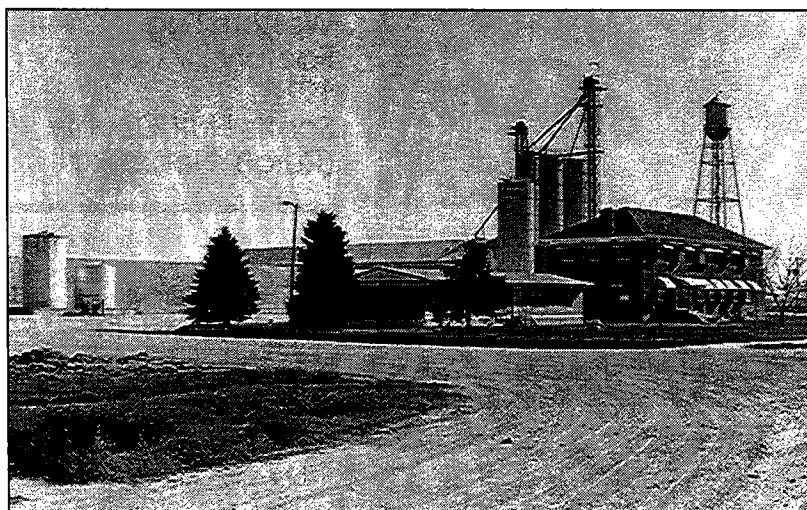


SF00-025
Gering Great
Western Sugar
Factory
1916
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska



SF00-027
Mitchell Great
Western Sugar Factory
1920
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska

SF00-284
Lyman Great
Western Sugar
Factory
1927
Scotts Bluff County
(Rural), Nebraska



SF00-298
Minatare Great
Western Sugar Factory
1926
Minatare, Nebraska

SF08-002

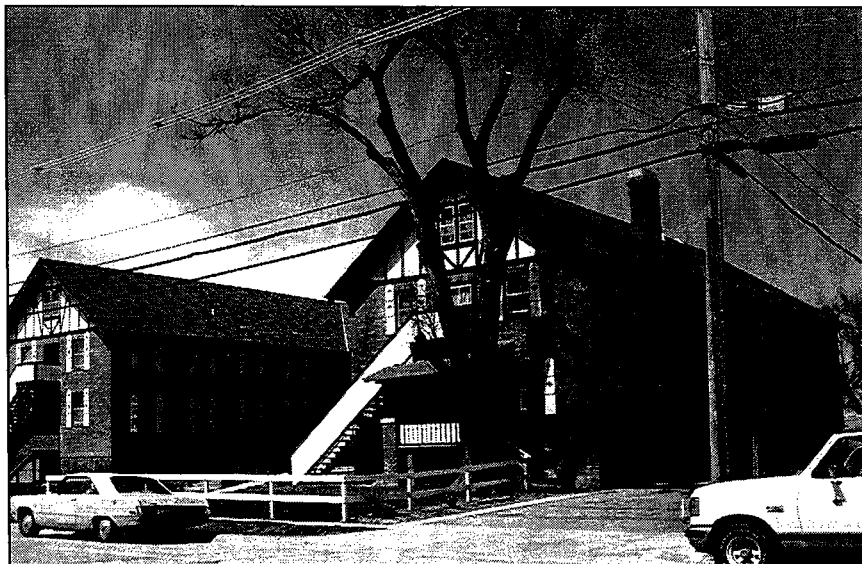
Triplex
ca. 1926
Minatare, Nebraska



SF08-003

Duplex
ca. 1926
Minatare,
Nebraska

SF08-004
Dormitory
ca. 1926
Minatare, Nebraska





SF09-001
Dormitory
ca. 1920
Mitchell, Nebraska

SF09-003
Duplex
ca. 1920
Mitchell, Nebraska



SF09-004
Triplex
ca. 1920
Mitchell, Nebraska

SF11-186
Great Western Hotel
ca. 1910
Scottsbluff, Nebraska



HISTORIC CONTEXT: COMMERCE

Commerce is defined as the merchandising of goods. The context of commerce includes industrial, wholesale, and retail commerce in addition to trade and barter, movement of goods, and specialized agriculture. Properties associated with Commerce include retail stores, warehouses, grain elevators, hotels, motels, rental cabins, and advertising signs.⁴⁹

The reconnaissance survey of Scotts Bluff County identified several properties associated with the historic context Commerce. The majority of properties were retail properties located in the urban centers of town. These buildings were largely constructed of brick, one to three stories tall. They usually housed retail businesses on the first level and office or residential use on the upper level. The first level typically displayed a recessed entrance and large windows for displaying merchandise. The commercial buildings would often include style details such as keystones, cornice lines, pedimented entrances, and decorative brickwork.

A few motels and cabins were also identified throughout the county. It was typical for the layout to include the main building with an office and for individual units to be arranged near the main building.

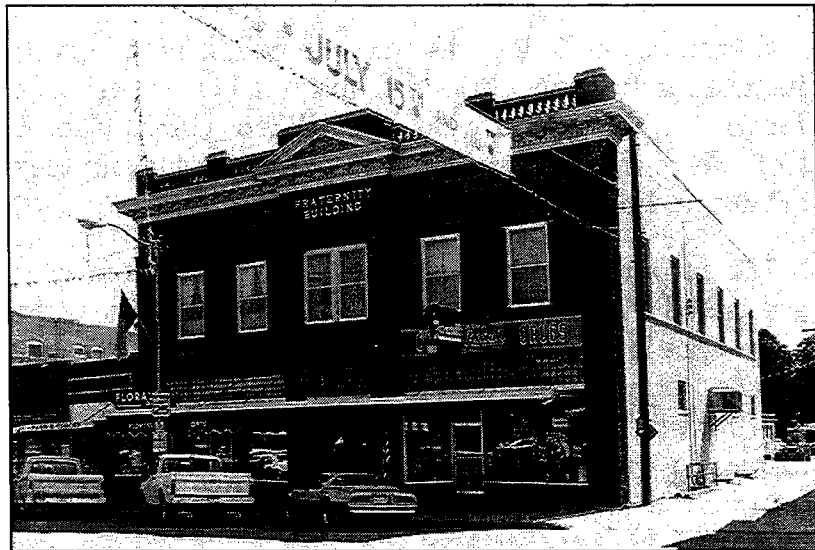
The properties featured here are those individual properties determined by USWR to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

⁴⁹ In regards to Scotts Bluff County, specific considerations are placed on the subtopics entitled "Retail Commerce: Villages in the Scotts Bluff Region" (12.02.10.02), "Retail Commerce: Towns in the Scotts Bluff Region" (12.02.10.03), and "Retail Commerce: Cities in the Scotts Bluff Region" (12.02.10.04).



SF01-017
Gering Courier
Building
Neo-Classical Style
1915
Gering, Nebraska

SF01-018
Fraternity Building
Neo-Classical Style
ca. 1915
Gering, Nebraska



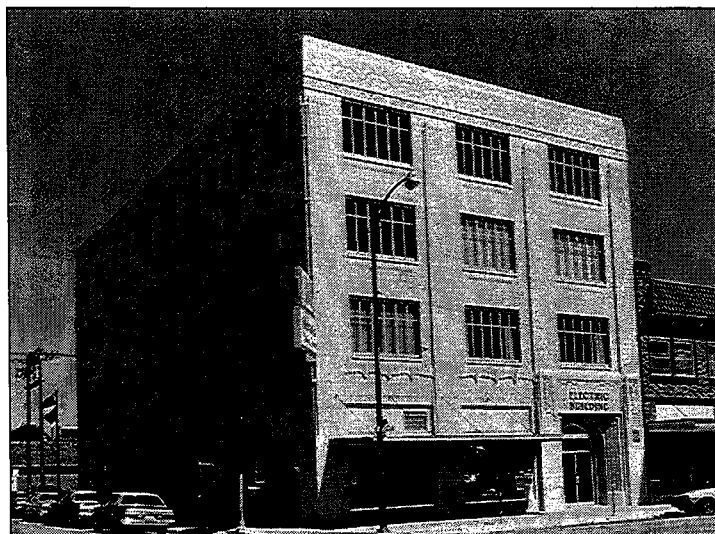
SF01-019
Commercial Building
20th Century
Commercial
Vernacular
ca. 1925
Gering, Nebraska

SF01-020
Commercial Building
20th Century Commercial
Vernacular
ca. 1915
Gering, Nebraska



SF03-012
Motor Court
Side Clipped
Gable
ca. 1940
Henry, Nebraska

SF11-112
Electric Building
Commercial Vernacular
ca. 1925
Scottsbluff, Nebraska



HISTORIC CONTEXT: SETTLEMENT

Settlement refers to the broad development of an area involving the division, acquisition and ownership of land. The cultural system of an area is often formed by settlement patterns. Property types associated with Settlement include urban and rural settlement patterns and neighborhoods, in addition to dwellings of all types and sizes. The largest group of property types associated with this context include single family detached houses, counting for the vast majority of properties surveyed in the county.

Residential resources located within Scotts Bluff County display a variety of architectural styles and forms from a period of construction dates spanning the mid to late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The majority of the properties surveyed within the county were residential buildings and of those, vernacular forms were the most prevalent. A vernacular form building or structure is often devoid of stylistic references and detail and therefore is described by its massing and roof form. Vernacular forms of residential buildings largely include front gable, side gable, gabled ell, one-story and two-story cubes.

Since Scotts Bluff County is located on the western edge of the state of Nebraska and architecture styles often moved in a wave across the country, many of the vernacular construction time frames date approximately one decade later than Midwestern states east of the Mississippi.⁵⁰ The **front gable** form was a popular form for residential construction as early as 1840 through 1925. The front gable form is characterized by a rectangular plan and a gable roof in which the gable end faces the main elevation.



Front Gable Example
SF11-016
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

50. Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management In Wisconsin: A Manual for Historic Properties* Vol. 3 (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), 2-3, 7.

The **side gable** form is similar to the front gable in that it is also characterized by a rectangular plan and a gable roof, but the gable of the roof is oriented perpendicular to the street. The side gable form of residential construction was dominant from circa 1840 through to about 1940.



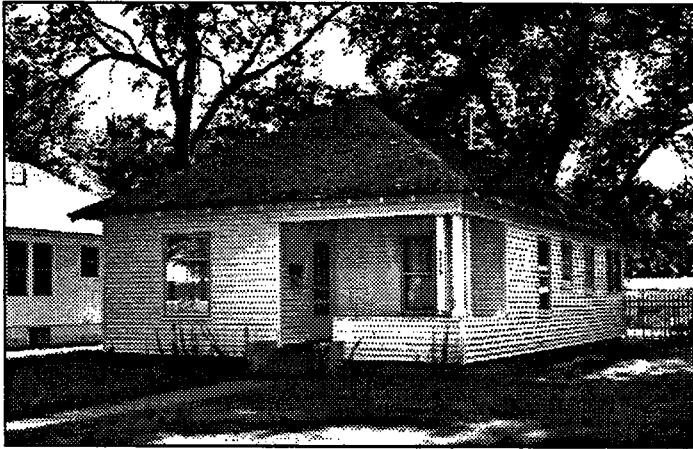
Side Gable Example
SF11-079
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

The **gabled ell** form, popular from circa 1860 to 1910, usually displays an "L" or "T" shaped plan and is two gabled ends perpendicular to each other.

Gabled Ell
SF11-040
Scottsbluff



The **one and two-story cube** form buildings are distinguished by a square plan and hipped roofs. The one-story cube was found in the Midwest from approximately 1870 to 1930 and the two-story cube from as early as 1850 to 1880, when it overlapped with the American Foursquare which has similar in massing and roof form as the cube.



One-Story Cube
SF11-132
Scottsbluff, Nebraska



Two-Story Cube
SF11-042
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

The residential buildings within Scotts Bluff County largely display frame construction, although a representative number of brick homes can be found throughout the county. A small number of either adobe or stone constructed houses remain extant in the city of Scottsbluff.

High style buildings and structures are represented less prominently than the popular vernacular form in Scotts Bluff County. Very few houses represent true high style forms of residential architectural styles, although a majority of the vernacular form houses have elements and details of architectural styles. Residential styles represented, fully or in part, in the county include, Queen Anne, Bungalow/Craftsman, Tudor Revival, Prairie School, Moderne, International Style, and Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival.

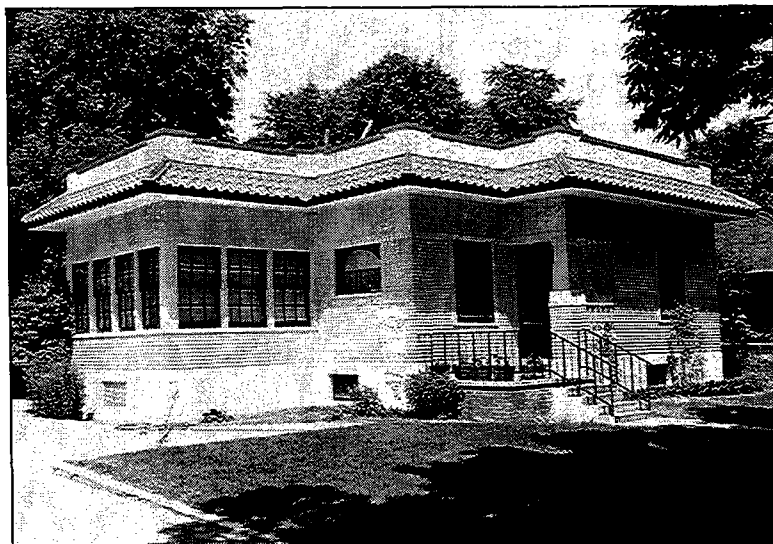
The Bungalow/Craftsman Style was the most prominent style utilized for residential development in the county, especially in the urban areas. The modest dwelling style is characterized by simple horizontal lines, wide overhanging eaves, front or side gable roofs, and a large open porch. The low massing and horizontal lines of the

building made it appear low to the ground, even in a one-and-one-half or two-story design, although the one-story bungalow was the most prevalent design.

Entire clusters/neighborhoods of Bungalow/Craftsman Style houses are located in areas of Scottsbluff. The high percentage of Bungalow/Craftsman Style homes in the county can be attributed to a number of factors. The style was prominent across the United States from about 1910 to 1940. This period of popularity corresponds to a period of significant growth within the county. The Bungalow/Craftsman Style was extremely popular with the middle and working class because they had easy access to plans through catalogues and popular magazines. The popularity of the design style was promoted in many publications of the early twentieth century such as *The Craftsman*. The style was also featured in builders' catalogs and mail order house catalogues of the day, such as Sears, Roebuck and Company and Montgomery Ward. The popularity of the style may also be attributed to its promotion by local builders and developers in Scotts Bluff County.

An unusual residential house form identified in the city of Scottsbluff was a group of Quonset houses identified in a three-block area on the northwest side of the city. The Quonset houses were constructed by the B and C Steel Company of Gering, Nebraska immediately following World War II between 1946 and 1948 to help alleviate the post war housing shortage. The buildings are the form of typical Quonset buildings with a curved roofline which also makes up the walls, overhanging awning windows, and open covered entryways. The houses of steel frame construction are covered with corrugated metal.

SF01-048
House
Spanish Revival Style
ca. 1925
Gering, Nebraska





SF01-081
House
Bungalow Style
ca. 1925
Gering, Nebraska

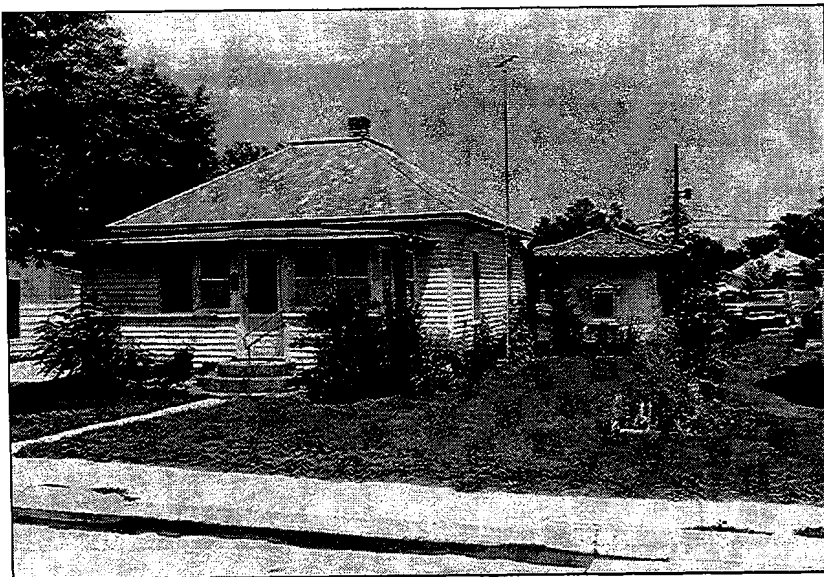
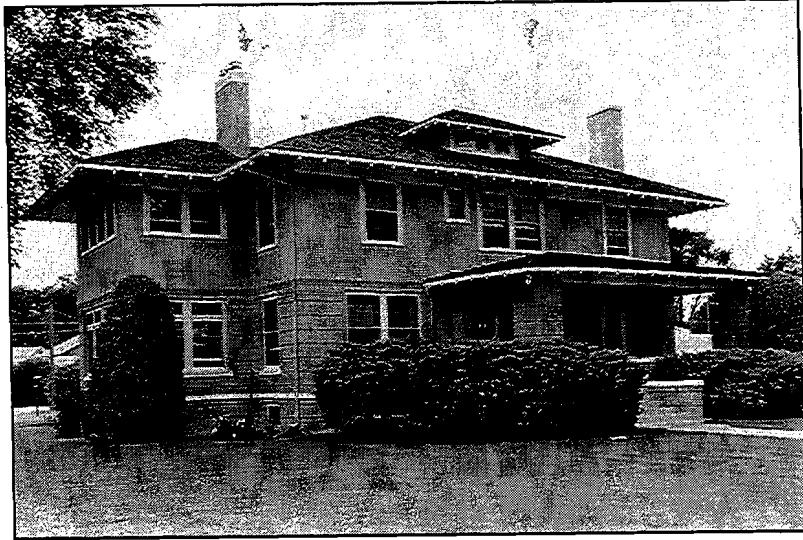
SF01-104
Severin Sorensen
House
Vernacular
Renaissance
Revival Style
ca. 1910, Addition ca.
1914-1916
Gering, Nebraska
Listed on National
Register, 1983



SF09-007
House
Bungalow Style
ca. 1925
Mitchell, Nebraska

SF09-034

Quivey, M.B. House
Vernacular w/Prairie
School Style Influence
1914
Mitchell, Nebraska
Listed on National
Register, 1983

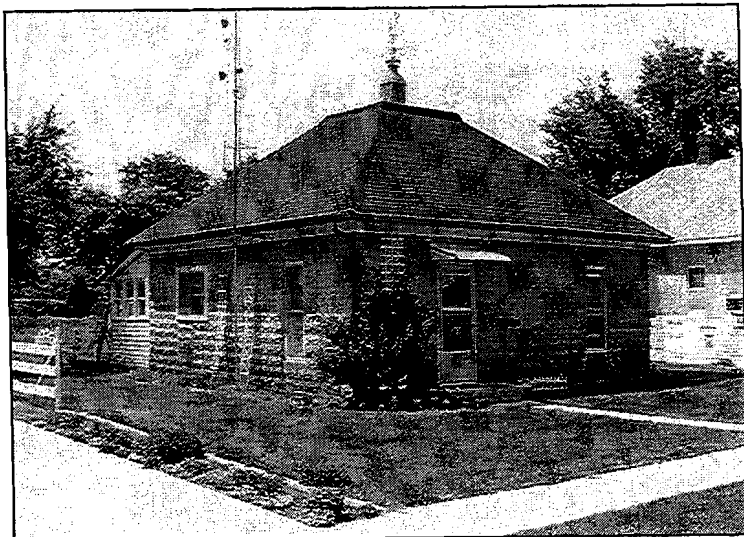


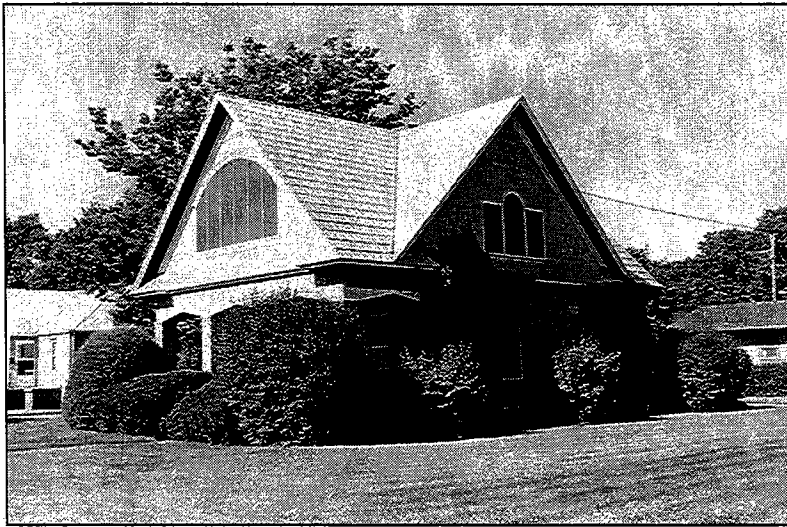
SF10-024

Outbuilding
Oriental Style
ca. 1910
Morrill, Nebraska

SF10-027

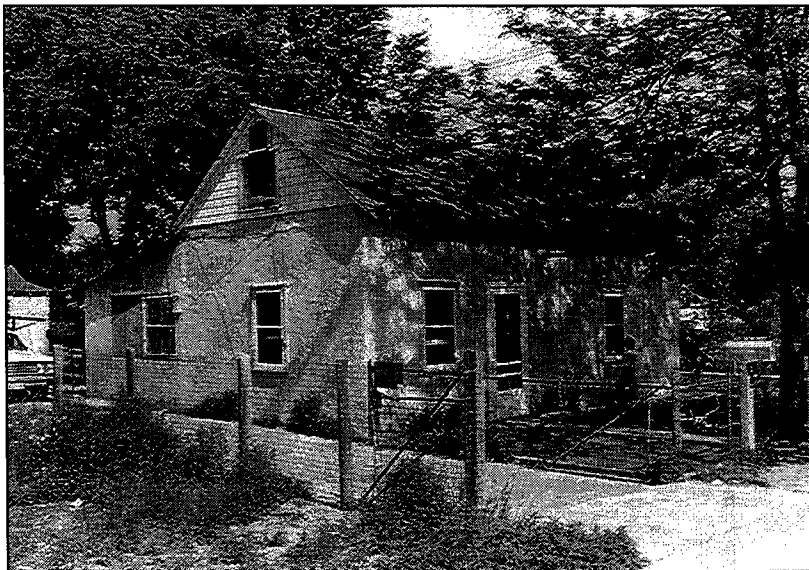
House
One-Story Cube
ca. 1905
Morrill, Nebraska





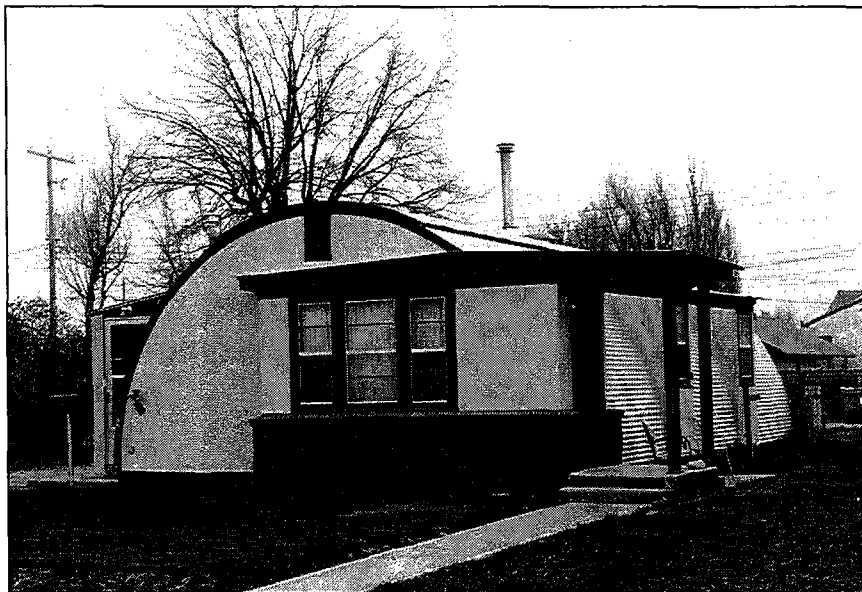
SF11-019
House
Cross Gable
ca. 1935
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

SF11-165
Apartment Building
Vernacular
ca. 1925
Scottsbluff, Nebraska



SF11-224
Adobe House
Side Gable
ca. 1910
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

One residential district, which may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places after 1997 – when it turns 50 years old, was identified in Scottsbluff. It consists of Quonset houses, Quonset garages, and Quonset commercial and industrial buildings. The below photograph is a fine example of a building in the proposed district.



SF11-367
Quonset House
ca. 1947
Scottsbluff,
Nebraska

VI

Recommendations

- Potential Multiple Property Listing for rural resources, such as farmsteads, irrigation structures, schools, churches, and township halls, in Scotts Bluff County
- Oral history project regarding Resettlement Administration Rehabilitation Farmsteads
- Statewide Multiple Property Listing of Resettlement Administration properties in Nebraska
- Oral history project regarding sugar beet industry in Nebraska
- Statewide Multiple Property Listing for sugar beet industry properties in Nebraska
- Statewide Multiple Property Listing for Nebraska's New Deal Programs
- National Register of Historic Places nomination of B & C Steel Company Quonset House District
- Intensive survey of canal system in the North Platte River Valley
- Amend National Register Nomination of the State of Nebraska Experimental Farm Station to include residential and farming buildings
- Nominate National Register eligible properties identified in the reconnaissance survey
- National Register of Historic Places nomination of Wildcat Hills State Game Preserve
- Transfer all survey site information onto archivally stable maps

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Appendix

DEFINITION OF ARCHITECTURAL TERMS AND STYLES

Arch – A curved structural member used to span an opening.

Bay – The area of a facade usually between piers or columns creating divisions of the main facade.

Brackets – Support members used under overhangs of a roof, usually decorative in nature.

Bungalow/Craftsman Style 1890-1940 – An architectural style characterized by overhanging eaves, modest size, open porches with large piers and low pitched roofs.

Columns – A circular or square vertical support member.

Commercial Vernacular Style – A style used to describe simply designed commercial buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which usually display large retail windows and recessed entrances on the first floor.

Contributing – A building, site, structure, or object that adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities for which a property is significant. The resource was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period.

Corbelling – A series of projections typically found on a wall surface.

Cornice – Any decorative member along the top of a wall.

County Capitol 1880-1910 – This was a popular form for courthouses in the state and was inspired by the United States Capitol in Washington D.C. Usually situated on a courthouse square, these square-shaped monumental buildings exhibit corner pavilions, a prominent central domed tower, and Neo-Classical or Romanesque styling.

Dentils – Small square block in masonry usually located along the cornice.

Dormers – A vertical window projecting from the roof. Variations of dormer types can be from the roof forms utilized, for example shed dormers, gable dormers, and hipped dormers.

Eaves – The edge of a roof that extends beyond the wall surface.

Eclectic Style 1890-1910 – An eclectic building displays a combination of architectural elements from various types. It usually resulted when a house designed in one architectural style was remodeled.

Elevation – Any single side of a building or structure.

Eligible – Properties that meet the National Park Service criteria for nomination and listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Facade – The main elevation of a building.

Fenestration – The arrangement of openings, for example windows and doors, on an elevation.

Foundation – The support of a building, which is exposed near ground level.

Front Gable – The triangular end of the roof faces the street.

Gable End – The triangular end of an exterior wall.

Gable Roof – A roof type formed by the meeting of two sloping roof surfaces.

Georgian Revival Style 1900-1930 – An architectural style characterized by symmetry of floor plan and facade, usually with gable roof with a central chimney. Other common features include doors flanked by columns or pilasters with a decorative pediment and six to twelve pane windows.

Hipped Roof – A roof type formed by the meeting of four sloping roof surfaces.

Italianate Style 1870-1890 – A popular style for houses, these square, rectangular, or L-shaped two-story buildings have low-pitched hip roofs, with wide eaves usually supported by heavy brackets, tall narrow windows, and front porches. In some cases, the roof may be topped with a cupola.

Late Gothic Revival 1880-1920 – A later version of the Gothic style, these buildings are generally larger and use heavy masonry construction. In churches, masonry is sometimes used throughout the structure. The pointed-arch window opening remains a key feature, however designs are more subdued than those of the earlier period.

Lintel – A horizontal member located at the top of a window, door or other opening.

Mansard Roof – A roof having two slopes on all four sides, and a flat top.

Modernistic Style 1930-1940 – Art Deco, the earlier Modernistic phase, was used primarily for public and commercial buildings and is characterized by angular composition, with towers and vertical projections and smooth wall surfaces with stylized and geometric motifs, including zigzags and chevrons. Art Moderne, the later version, shows smooth wall finishes without surface ornamentation, asymmetrical facades with a horizontal emphasis, flat roofs, rounded corners, and bands of windows or curved window glass creating a streamlined effect.

Neo-Classical Style 1900-1920 – An architectural style characterized by a symmetrical facade and usually includes a pediment portico with classical columns.

Noncontributing – A building, site, or object that does not add to the historic architectural qualities or historic associations for which a property is significant. The resource was not present during the period of significance; does not relate to the documented significance of the property; or due to alterations, disturbances, additions, or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period.

Parapet – A low wall located on the edge of a roof, may be stepped in form.

Pediment – A decorative triangular element found at the gable of the roof, or above an entryway.

Period Revival Style 1920-1930 – Influenced by the styles of medieval English and French country cottages, these houses are usually of two stories and display irregular massing, steeply pitched roofs with slate or clay tile covering, massive chimneys, half-timbering, casement windows, and attached garages.

Pilasters – A rectangular column attached to a wall that is used for decorative purposes.

Prairie School Style 1900-1930 – This movement, popularized by the world renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, emphasized the integration of a building and its site. Elements of the style include a low-pitch roof line with wide over-hanging eaves, two stories high with one-story porch, and an overall horizontal emphasis in the design.

Property Type – A classification for a building, structure, site, or object based on its historic use or function.

Queen Anne Style 1880-1900 – A style which enjoyed widespread popularity in the state, these two-story houses have asymmetrical facades and steeply pitched rooflines of irregular shape. Characteristics include a variety of surface textures on walls, prominent towers, tall chimneys, and porches with gingerbread trim.

Quoins – A series of stones, bricks, or wood used to decorate the corners of a building.

Renaissance Revival Style 1900-1920 – Front facades are usually dominated by a full-height porch with the roof supported by classical columns. Symmetrically arranged buildings show monumental proportions, balanced windows, and a central entry.

Returns – The continuation of molding from one surface to another, commonly seen are cornice returns which are carried into the gable end of a building.

Romanesque Revival Style 1880-1920 – These buildings are generally of masonry construction and usually show some rough-faced stonework. The Roman or round-topped arch is a key feature. Facades are asymmetrical and most examples have towers, brick corbelling and horizontal stone handing.

Roof Types – See definitions of front gable, side gable, hipped, mansard, and shed.

Sash – The framework within which windows are set.

Segmental Arch – An arch formed by the segment of a circle, generally portrayed over a door or window opening, usually constructed of stone or brick.

Shed Roof – A roof consisting of one inclined plane.

Shingle Style 1890-1920 – Characteristics include a two-story asymmetrical house with hip, gable or gambrel roof; walls covered wholly or in part with wood shingles; little or no ornamentation; and extensive porches.

Side Gable – The spine of the gable is parallel to the street.

Sidelights – A lone fixed window usually flanking both sides of a door or another center window.

Sill – The horizontal framing member at the bottom of a window.

Spanish Colonial Revival Style 1900-1920 – These buildings, which have a southwestern flavor, show masonry construction usually covered with plaster or stucco, red-tiled hipped roofs, and arcaded porches. Some facades are enriched with curvilinear and decorated roof lines.

Stepped Facade – A facade in which one of the bays protrude from the main plane of the building at a regular interval like stairs.

Stepped Roof – See parapet.

Stringcourse – A continuous horizontal band of brick or stone on a building used for decorative purposes to break up the appearance of an elevation.

Transom – A small window located above a door.

Vernacular – The vernacular form is a functional, simplistic building or structure without stylistic details.

Weatherboard – Wood siding consisting of overlapping boards.

